

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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SAIPAN



Hyatt tops Chef's Competition. PAGE 2
Delta marks 25 years of service to Saipan. PAGE 9

Prayers pour in for Flores

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Prayers and well wishes for speedy recovery are pouring in for Saipan Mayor Donald Glen P. Flores, who was rushed to the Commonwealth Health Center on Saturday morning, reportedly after a massive stroke. As of Sunday, he remained in the hospital's intensive care unit surrounded by family and friends.

See PRAYERS on Page 4

Saipan gas now \$5.109 to \$5.669 a gallon

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Saipan motorists are now paying 15 cents more for every gallon of gas they put in their vehicle, again making the island's current gas prices of \$5.109 to \$5.669 a gallon among the highest on American soil. The latest average gas price in the U.S. is \$3.648 a gallon.

Mobil Oil Mariana Islands and Shell Marianas increased their Saipan pump prices late Thursday night and Saturday morning, respectively. The highest price now exceeds the CNMI's current minimum wage of \$5.55 an hour.

Regular unleaded gasoline at Mobil service stations and V-Power at Shell stations on Saipan is now \$5.109 a gallon, up from \$4.959 a gallon.

See GAS on Page 4



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Malerie Adelbai, a customer service attendant at Shell Highway Express on Middle Road in Gualo Rai, pumps gas into a car yesterday. Shell Marianas and Mobil Oil Mariana Islands raised pump prices on Saipan by 15 cents a gallon, bringing the prices on island between \$5.109 and \$5.660 a gallon.

CNMI, 7 states face loss of federal funds over prison policies

By SARI HORWITZ
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—The majority of U.S. states and territories are taking steps to reduce sexual assaults in prisons as re-

quired by federal law, according to Justice Department officials.

But seven states and one territory face a 5-percent reduction in federal grants because their governors have either refused to adopt federal standards to com-

bat prison sexual assault as required by the Prison Rape Elimination Act, or have not committed to comply with the law, the officials said.

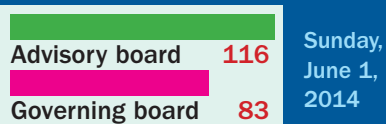
An estimated 4 percent of state and federal prison inmates and 3.2 percent

of jail inmates reported experiencing one or more incidents of sexual victimization by another inmate or a corrections facility staff member within the past 12 months, according to the Justice Department.

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POLL RESULTS

Should the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board of trustees be an advisory board or governing board?



INSIDE

BUSINESS

President Obama's boldest move on carbon comes with perils.

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LIFE & STYLE

A man who accosted Brad Pitt on a red carpet pleads no contest to battery.

► PAGE 19



Hyatt tops Chef's Competition at final Taste festival

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

The Hyatt Regency Saipan bested four other major hotels on Saipan in the 2014 Certified Angus Beef Chef's Competition last Saturday in the final leg of the 2014 Taste of Marianas Food Festival and Beer Garden at the American Memorial Park.

Organized by Triple J and co-ordinated by Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods general manager Jay Santos, Hyatt bested Pacific Islands Club, Mariana Resort and Spa, Saipan World Resort, and Fiesta Resort and Spa in this year's competition, which had the theme "Mexican Beef Tacos."

Mariana Resort won last year's Chef's Competition, which had the theme "All American Cheese Burger."

"Each year we try to come up with different themes for the event and, as you can see, they were very happy that this year was Mexican Beef Tacos as we haven't had that type of food for this event," Santos told *Saipan Tribune*.

This year Saipan World Resort placed second, while Mariana Resort placed third.

The Hyatt team won \$500,



PHOTOS BY JAYSON CAMACHO

Guam Food Guy and judge Ken Stewart tastes Hyatt's entry while another judge, Jim Herbert, behind Stewart, surveys Mariana Resort and Spa's entry.

the World Resort team got \$300 and Marianas Resort won \$200. All placers were given trophies and a bag of goodies from Certified Angus Beef.

Santos thanked the Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas Islands for donating

\$1,000 for the cash prizes.

Ken Stewart, also known as the Guam Food Guy and one of the competition's judges, said he enjoyed the Hyatt's entry "primarily because they were the truest to the traditional concept of the Mexican beef taco.



Chef's Competition judge Marcia Schultz tastes a sample of Hyatt Regency Saipan's entry.

They used something that had imagery with the southwest of Mexico."

"Their salsas were both delicious and the way their meat was cooked and the homemade shells were crispy and flavorful. Everything you wanted such as the taste and the authenticity was done well," he added.

Vinson Deleon Guerrero, lead cook for Giovanni's at Hyatt, said that everything they used for their dish such as peppers, lemons, and avocados were also used as part of their display.

"We wanted to stay within

the Mexican tradition of tacos and put out basic condiments such as the salsa, guacamole, chilis, and *pickle de gallo* and tried to infuse as much of the local ingredients as we can using mangos and *donni* (local hot pepper) on island and also local avocados," he said.

"The beef we had to slow cook for 12 hours and everything that came with it," Deleon Guerrero added.

Hyatt's pastry chef Ian Cranley said the soft-shelled tacos took about an hour to prepare and the potato chips took about

an hour and a half.

Santos said that Triple J is truly proud to host this event every year.

"The HANMI member hotels look forward to this competition every year and it's a delight to see the junior chefs come out and be as creative as they are with the display and how they prepare the food," Santos said.

"Congratulations to all the contestants and based on the scores it was an extremely tight and very close and congratulations to Hyatt for winning this year's event," he added.



Giovanni's at Hyatt lead cook Vinson Deleon Guerrero samples one of Saipan World Resort's dishes.



Saipan World Resort chefs and managers pose with coordinator Jay Santos (far left) after securing second place in the competition.



From left to right: Jay Santos, pastry chef Ian Cranley, lead cook Vinson Deleon Guerrero, Hyatt F&B director Tyrell Pauling, and executive chef Gabrielle Colombo pose for *Saipan Tribune* after winning first place.



Mariana Resort Junior chefs pose with Jay Santos (far right), Marianas Resort and Spa executive chef William Retardo, and Marianas Resort and Spa general manager Gloria Cavanagh after winning third place.

Empowering Saipan!



TO THE PEOPLE OF THE CNMI

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BEST SUNSHINE
International

Castle-shaped hotel up for auction

In March 2013, a company held a groundbreaking ceremony for the completion of the long-abandoned castle-shaped hotel across the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Next month, the hotel building is set for auction.

At the groundbreaking ceremony attended by Gov. Eloy S. Inos, PDI Capital Group Korea called the seven-story building with a rooftop pool as Forest Hill Hotel. But according to court papers, the building is called Hotel Palace.

Attorney Michael Dotts, counsel for Dae Dong Corp., told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the building will be for auction on June 24, 2014, and that proceeds will be used to pay judgments for his client and a client of attorney Joshua Berger.

Dotts said Tim Goodwin's company, Pacific Rim International, was appointed to handle the auction for the court.

"I am not sure where the auction will actually be held. Potential bidders can contact Tim Goodwin of Pacific Rim International [at 234-9351]," Dotts said.

Dotts said it will be good for

the community if someone will finally finish the hotel.

Saipan Tribune learned that the hotel has 70 rooms and there's space to build 30 more.

Last week, Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman issued a judgment in favor of Dotts' client, Dae Dong Corp. against Jae Hyun Park, Han Sang Eok, Moon Yoo Suk, An Jong Ho, and Philip S. Berg Co. Ltd., in the total amount of \$93,500, jointly and severally.

Wiseman said Dae Dong Corp. and defendants entered into a contract on April

1, 2007, to coordinate maintenance of the Hotel Palace Building project.

Defendant Moon Yoo Suk promised that the defendants would pay Dae Dong Corp. once the property that plaintiff was involved in maintaining was assigned.

On Sept. 3, 2011, without notice to Dae Dong Corp., the property was assigned to Philip S. Berg Co. Ltd., a related company to the other defendants.

However, defendants failed to pay Dae Dong Corp. (**Ferdie de la Torre**)

HOUSE

From Page 1

CNMI and Guam, but there's no telling whether this bill could become law by Dec. 31, 2014.

E-2C is a CNMI-only foreign investor program that is set to expire after 2014.

"For us E-2C investors, it's still hard to plan for the future because we still don't know if we will be allowed to be here after 2014," E-2C investor visa holder James Han told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

He said nine of his 12 employees at QQ Car Rental are CW permit holders.

Even if he wants to employ them up to 2019, this won't be possible if the E-2C program is not extended.

Han is now working on putting up a similar business in Guam—both as a cushion just in case the E-2C investor visa program in the CNMI is not extended beyond 2014 and as a business expansion decision.

He also thinks that extending the CW program is "only postponing the problem, not fixing the problem."

Han said both long-term legal foreign workers and long-term investors in the CNMI should be given a more permanent and improved U.S. immigration status.

Rep. George Camacho (R-Saipan) said yesterday it is "critical" at this point when the CNMI economy is reviving to have a "stable labor force."

"However, we need to take this opportunity to address the CNMI workforce in a more permanent long-term status," he said.

Sablan's H.R. 4296 passed the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee by unanimous consent on Thursday.

The committee action came after U.S. Labor Secretary Thomas Perez granted the CNMI's request to extend the

CW program by five years or up to Dec. 31, 2019. But Perez's decision only extends the CW program. Sablan's HR 4296 addresses three other unique programs.

E-2C

Under Sablan's bill, the E-2C foreign investor program continues a provision of CNMI immigration law that allowed non-U.S. citizens to live in the Commonwealth if they made a minimum investment of \$50,000.

Sablan said the CNMI government decided these investors were economically important and promised them residency.

"The Commonwealth made a commitment. We told them if they invested they could live here. So it is only fair to them—and probably better for our economy—to grandfather those investments for another five years," he said.

H visas

HR 4296 also extends the exemption from the numerical limit on H visas in Guam and the CNMI. The exemption was originally intended to meet the U.S. military buildup's labor needs.

"But the buildup has been delayed. And the Defense Department says that a lack of H2-B construction workers would cause further delay at a time when our region is becoming of increasing strategic importance. So I think it is for the good of our country to extend the H visa exemption," Sablan said.

Asylum bar

If and when Sablan's HR 4296 becomes law, it will extend up to 2019 the CNMI's exemption from accepting asylum applications.

Sablan said U.S. Public Law 110-229, which gave the federal government the responsibility

for immigration in the CNMI, said it should be done "in a way that would expand tourism and economic development, wherever possible."

"The bar on asylum does that," he said. "No one can come here and claim political asylum. That gives the Department of Homeland Security more flexibility to allow tourists from China and Russia to enter visa-free. And those tourists now account for 28 percent of total arrivals."

Gov. Eloy S. Inos supports an extension of the asylum application exemption, so as not to risk losing Chinese and Russian tourists who are allowed to enter the CNMI without a U.S. visa.

H.R. 4296, however, still has to be approved by the U.S. House Judiciary Committee before it can be taken before the U.S. House of Representatives for a vote, Sablan said.

After that, the U.S. Senate must also approve the bill before it reaches the president's desk for action.

"We just have to keep working. But at least it is clear we are making forward progress and building support for keeping these programs in place for another five years," Sablan said.

Sablan introduced HR 4296 on March 25, out of concern that two larger omnibus territories bills in the U.S. House and Senate were not moving quickly enough. These two bills also extend the transitional program.

A month after he introduced HR 4296, U.S. House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs chair Dr. John Fleming held a hearing. On Thursday, U.S. House Natural Resources Committee chair Doc Hastings brought the bill before the full Committee for a vote.

Sablan thanked both Fleming and Hastings "who moved my

bill swiftly through the hearing and mark-up process."

More on CW extension

Nick Nishikawa, general manager of Hyatt Regency, said on Friday that the CNMI's major industry, tourism, will "definitely benefit from this five-year CW extension."

"With the continuous growth within the tourism industry, hotels on island will have the opportunity to train U.S. workers for essential job functions—this is very good for Hyatt Regency Saipan," Nishikawa said in a statement.

He said they are also pleased to hear that these good foreign workers "are able to extend their CW status for another five years as we need more time to integrate U.S. workers into the workforce."

"The training will help us ensure that care and service are extended to tourists coming from various countries with the standard of service we so proudly uphold at Hyatt," said Nishikawa, who is also president of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Carlito Marquez, a long-time foreign worker in the CNMI, said the CW extension will also "extend the agony, uncertainties, and worries of foreign workers for five years."

Every year, the number of CW workers will have to be reduced until it reaches zero by end of 2019.

"Our quest for improved immigration status advocacy remains intact for the next five years or more if given a chance for a continued employment," Marquez said. "On the other hand, the good news is that, for those foreign workers with U.S. citizen children, five years extension is Uncle Sam's gift as there will be enough time to nurture their growing children. Training them is a plus factor."

GAS

From Page 1

Super unleaded gasoline at Saipan's Mobil stations now costs \$5.429 a gallon, up from \$5.279 a gallon.

Diesel at both Mobil and Shell stations on Saipan is now \$5.660 a gallon, an increase from \$5.519 a gallon.

"Now we have to work almost an hour so we can buy a gallon of regular gasoline," Jerry Garcia, a minimum wage earner living in Gualo Rai, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Garcia said Saipan motorists can't do anything about gas price increases, so they have to make their own expense adjustments to make up for the added amount they have to spend on gas. In Garcia's case, he said he may have to cut down on non-essential ex-

penses, such as alcohol.

Tinian and Rota gas prices remained the same as of yesterday, but historically, they follow Saipan's price changes within days so motorists can expect increases in Rota and Tinian's gas prices as early as this week.

As of yesterday, Rota's regular unleaded gasoline is \$5.90 a gallon, while diesel is \$6.95 a gallon, based on surveyed prices at Mobil Sasanhaya and Luta Gas.

On Tinian, regular unleaded gasoline is at \$6.099 a gallon. Diesel is \$6.499 a gallon at Tinian Mobil.

While Saipan motorists now have to deal with a 15-cent increase in pump prices, national media reported that oil prices fell on Friday.

In the CNMI, Mobil and Shell do not issue advance notices for any gas price change.

PRAYERS

From Page 1

Gov. Eloy S. Inos himself visited the mayor and his family at CHC.

"I ask the people of the Commonwealth to keep Mayor Flores and his family in their prayers as he continues to be treated at the Commonwealth Health Center," the governor said last night.

Henry Hofschneider, the mayor's special adviser, said the mayor, as of yesterday, was "non-responsive" and "on life-support."

"I ask the public to pray for his recovery. The family has been talking to him. He's non-responsive but he's still alive," said Hofschneider, who visited CHC late Sunday morning.

According to one of the family members who was at the hospital yesterday, Flores has not "woken up" since he was brought in on Saturday, May 31. The family member said the mayor suffered a stroke and that Flores' wife, Cecilia, is with him at the hospital.

Hospital personnel refused to talk about the case, as per standard hospital practice.

Hofschneider said Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council Ramon B. Camacho will be acting mayor while Flores remains at the hospital.

"The mayor's office will continue to be in normal operation," he added.

On social media, prayers and

well wishes for the mayor also abound.

"The mayor is still fighting," one of them said. "We will keep you in our prayers, Mayor," another said.

According to other sources, a moment of silence was held yesterday during one of the high school girls' softball games at the Oleai Sports Complex in honor of Flores.

Flores became Saipan mayor in January 2010, succeeding Juan B. Tudela. He ran as a Republican in the 2009 general elections. In April this year, Flores declared his re-election bid, this time as an independent.

On the day he announced his re-election bid, Flores said despite the obstacles and challenges that the mayor's office faces, they continue to persevere and serve the community.

He said he has promoted and supported programs that have directly benefited the community with emphasis on children, safety, environment, preservation, and tourism. In 2011, for example, he launched a large-scale tree-trimming project along the Saipan Beach Road Pathway, has overseen the planting of flowers in the road medians and enhanced the U.S. Armed Forces Memorial by the Beach Road-Microl intersection.

Under his term, his office secured a federal grant that advanced the Saipan Dog Control Program, and initiated construction of the island's first Animal Control Shelter. (**With Jayson Camacho**)

CNMI

From Page 1

ment. In addition, an estimated 9.5 percent of adjudicated youth in state juvenile facilities and state contract facilities reported sexual victimization in the past year.

"These statistics are alarming and they are unacceptable," Deputy Attorney General James M. Cole told reporters Wednesday. "No one—and I repeat no one—should be subjected to sexual abuse while in the custody of our justice system. It serves as a violation of fundamental rights, an attack on human dignity and runs contrary

to everything we stand for as a nation."

The law to "prevent, detect and respond to" sexual abuse and rape in prisons, jails and juvenile facilities was passed unanimously by Congress and signed by President George W. Bush in 2003. May 15 was the deadline for states and territories to submit certifications or assurances of compliance to standards created by a national bipartisan commission.

The governors of Arizona, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Nebraska, Texas and Utah as well as the Northern Mariana Islands in the Pacific either did not meet the deadline or have indicated that they do not intend to com-

ply with the law. Texas, Florida, Idaho, Utah and Indiana all have facilities with a high rate of sexual assault by inmates or staff, according to a Bureau of Justice Statistics report.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry wrote Attorney General Eric Holder Jr. in April that it was "impossible" for Texas to comply with the standards because they were too costly and were a violation of states' rights. Perry said Texas would continue the state programs it already has to reduce prison rapes.

"I'm heartened by the fact that Governor Perry recognizes that rape in prisons has to stop," Cole said in response to a question about Perry. "I'm a bit at a

loss to try and figure out why Governor Perry isn't taking advantage of all the things that have been given to him by this statute and by the programs that we've put together to help achieve what he thinks is so necessary."

Justice officials said that other governors have told them that full compliance with the prison rape elimination standards "will not be quick or easy."

Violence and sexual assault in prison is "a culture that's been embedded for many, many years," said Mary Lou Leary, the principal deputy assistant attorney general of the Office of Justice Programs. "It takes time for cultures to change."

CUC discloses payments of its 3 largest customers

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The cash-strapped Commonwealth Utilities Corp. disclosed Friday that its three biggest customers—the central government, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and the Public School System—paid only 66 percent of the \$20.9 million that was billed them in fiscal year 2013.

CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren reported to the board that the agency's collection from these three biggest users totaled only \$13.942 million last fiscal year.

The public hospital made the lowest payment in fiscal year 2013 at \$1.774 million—just 28 percent of the \$6.388 million in total charges for the year.

Since the start of fiscal year

2014—as of April 30—the CHCC paid only \$870,892 for its utility consumption. This represents just 22 percent of total charges assessed CHCC this fiscal year, which is \$3.983 million.

CHCC's actual payments made to CUC in fiscal year 2013 and 2014 were the lowest compared to PSS and the central government.

According to Warren, PSS had made a total of \$2.311 million in actual payments in fiscal year 2013, which is 55 percent of the overall charges for the year, totaling \$4.219 million.

As of April 30, 2014, the system paid just \$1.6 million of the \$2.786 million in total charges assessed since the beginning of fiscal year 2014 in October. This payment represents 58 percent of total charges for the year.

Warren reported that the

central government made the biggest payment among the three customers since fiscal year 2013. Records show that actual payment last fiscal year was \$9.856 million—or 95 percent—of the total charges of \$10.364 million.

In fiscal year 2014, the central government's payments since October amount to \$4.632 million—or 84 percent—of total charges amounting to \$5.510 million.

Based on CUC records, the average monthly charges for the three customers are the following: CHCC, \$663,961; PSS, \$464,385; and the central government, \$918,357.

CUC and CHCC are currently in litigation over the hospital's mounting arrears, while negotiations are ongoing with PSS and the central government.

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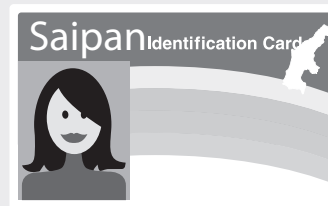


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Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road, San Jose Village **(670) 235-6032**

New hospital CFO onboard, approved \$90K salary

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After over two years of searching for a chief financial officer that would handle, manage, and hopefully turn around the troubled finances of the public hospital, a candidate has finally been named to the position and is ready to start work today at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Jack Taisague, originally from Guam who lived most of his life in the U.S. mainland, will officially assume the CFO position today, June 2, after he recently signed a two-year contract with the corporation.

CHCC CEO Esther L. Muña disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* Friday that Taisague

will receive a \$90,000 per annum salary.

Taisague, who lived on Saipan for a short while, was selected from about 30 candidates for the position.

Based on his credentials, the new CFO has a bachelor's degree in accounting and BA degree in finance from the Portland State University. He earned his master's degree from Loma Linda University.

Among the highlights of his career include serving as comptroller of a \$20-million medical healthcare clinic with 220-plus employees and part of a worldwide entity.

Taisague, according to Muña, has prepared annual budgets for 27 departments and completely analyzed re-

vamped benefits system for medical providers and hourly staff to replace antiquated systems.

He has also produced full financial statements complete with budget variance analysis and has put together comprehensive business plans for clinic expansion or relocation and analyzed and reported on the benefits of both.

Muña disclosed that Taisague had also documented existing international financial processes and prepared manuals, among his related experiences in the field.

In a previous CHCC board meeting, Muña reported that top candidates for the CFO position were provided information and documents about

the corporation and its finances, including the HealthTech report completed by an independent firm, the Sustainability Plan completed by the U.S. Health Commissioned Corps that provided a 90-day technical assistance to the hospital, available financial statements and audit report, among others.

Taisague is moving to Saipan from Alexandria, Virginia.

Last Friday, the Marianas Public Land Trust board disclosed in a meeting that initial communications between the MPLT and Taisague began last week when the MPLT asked the new CFO's initial input on the financial data and information submitted by the corporation management.

MPLT consultant Bruce McMillan said that CHCC has already submitted a request to drawdown the \$3-million line of credit approved for the corporation. Despite the pronouncement of the critical need to provide assistance to the CHCC, McMillan said that negotiations remain on the ta-

ble due to somewhat "conflicting" and "inadequate justifications" as well as incomplete data reporting earlier provided by the corporation.

The MPLT board on Friday decided to defer any action on the drawdown request pending a formal meeting with the new CFO.

CHCC board trustees are split on AG's legal opinion

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board of trustees are split on a recent legal opinion that the board, being an advisory body, has no power to force the hospital CEO to follow its recommendations in matters concerning management and operation.

Trustee Anthony Raho said he greatly appreciates what he described as a free and fair legal opinion provided by Attorney General Joey San Nicolas despite any politics that may be involved in the matter.

"Of course I am happy that the AG's opinion supports one of the three lines of reasoning that CEO [Esther] Muña, Dr. [Sherleen] Osman, and I had as to why the CHCC board of trustees' Resolution 2014-02 was faulty in its attempt to address the board members' concerns of a due process issue— simply one reasoning being that the board in its advisory capacity had no authority to issue such a resolution giving direction to the CEO," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Raho said he fails to understand why his fellow board members are confused in this despite the clarity of Public Law 16-51 that created the corporation.

"I would hope now that there has been clarification regarding CHCC board of trustee Resolution 2014-02, which has been somewhat a divisive issue, that the board can move on, resolve any matters of outstanding conflict between board members themselves and between the board and the CHCC management, and work in cooperation for the good of CHCC and the people of the CNMI. I feel that this board or any board for that matter should be able to demonstrate that it may work in cooperation and collaboration with management, not against them, in an advisory capacity before even being considered for an actual governing board role," he added.

Trustee Phillip Mendiola-Long refused to comment on

the issue when asked. However, he noted that, "I am at a loss as to what it is that we exactly are supposed to do based on this interpretation of the law."

Trustee Roy Rios had this to say: "The law is the law and I will follow it. I will ask my fellow trustees to not dwell on this any further. We don't have the luxury of time to dwell on this. We must work collaboratively. We must think of the public's welfare. Our time must be focused on the continuous provision of quality healthcare to the public."

CHCC board chair Joaquin Torres earlier said "it appears that the legal opinion focused on supporting the position taken earlier by one of its staff and ignored other relevant provisions of the law that may not tend to support that position."

Warning

Raho said there is a "draft" bill (Senate Bill 18-52) converting the board from advisory to governing. He said the bill was never presented, discussed, nor ratified in any capacity by the CHCC board.

"I would hope that the mere fact that the draft bill was submitted by a private citizen as opposed to the board review itself would be cause for concern for any legislator considering this bill. I have great concern for the legitimacy of SB 18-52 as it attempts to remove the CEO and the director of Medical Affairs as voting members, and reduces the board membership to five strictly political appointees with no requirement for any health care management background," he said, adding that there is no requirement to have any physician as a voting member on this body.

For Raho, these proposed changes are alarming and he hopes the Senate and the House of Representatives will look closely at the many problems with the draft legislation, call for public hearings and garner the opinions, advice, and guidance of experts that have health care management experience.



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'Hospital's \$3M line of credit guaranteed by general fund'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite questions about the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s finances, the Marianas Public Land Trust has full confidence it will not lose a single penny if the full \$3-million line of credit approved for the hospital is released.

This was what MPLT vice chair Maria Frica Pangelinan expressed during Friday night's board deliberation on the matter, disclosing that the \$3-million line of credit is fully guaranteed by the CNMI government's general fund.

According to Pangelinan, despite the hospital's cash flow situation, "all other conditions and demands put in the [line of credit] agreement will be overridden by the guarantee by the general fund."

"I don't really worry about the conditions and compliance [with the agreement] because there is guarantee on the general fund [for this \$3 million]. Honestly, other than the hiring of a [chief financial officer], I don't have any problems [releasing the funds to the hospital]," she told colleagues during more than four hours of meeting Friday night.

With a CFO already onboard, there's no reason to doubt that the corporation is moving forward in its commitment to improve its financial management. Pangelinan said it's the corporation CEO and CFO after all who are answerable to the MPLT.

Pangelinan said that, based on her review of the data, the past \$3 million line of credit provided to CHCC was used only as a "safety backup."

She said the projected deficit of CHCC this fiscal year remains "manageable."

Based on the financial review by MPLT consultant Bruce MacMillan, the corporation—after paying the \$3 million in full last April—was left with only some \$2,600 in the bank.

He also disclosed a "hold off" of some \$3.5 million cost reimbursement from Medicare due to the CHCC and the mounting receivables from patients and insurance.

Saipan Tribune learned that CHCC had promised that once the \$3.5 million cost reimbursement from Medicare is received, the money becomes a reserve fund for the payment of the line of credit on or before its due date.

Each month, CHCC spends

\$1.8 million on payroll alone. Coupled with other expenditures, the CHCC's expenses total \$2.2 million monthly.

Compared to monthly collections—such as in April and May—the revenue each month was between \$600,000 and \$700,000 only.

McMillan said the MPLT loan primarily serves as a "life-line" to keep CHC afloat. He expressed confidence in the ability of the new CFO to turn around the financial management of the corporation.

McMillan estimates that in order for the new CFO to develop a long-term financial planning for the hospital, some four months are needed to have a full grasp of everything at the corporation.



FHB DONATION

Victoria B. Concepcion, branch manager of First Hawaiian Bank Oleai, presents an Educational Tax Credit donation to Beth A. Nunez, vice principal of Grace Christian Academy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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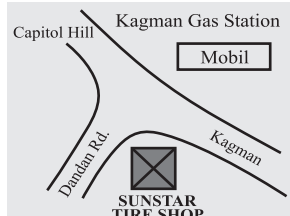
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Bronster Hoshibata, CNMI govt reach deal

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORT

Betty Johnson's Hawaii-based counsel, the Bronster Hoshibata law firm, has reached a settlement deal with the CNMI government in connection with its

petition for attorney's fees and costs incurred in representing Johnson in her class action.

In an order on Friday, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood disclosed that she was recently advised that

a settlement has been reached. She did not mention the amount involved in the settlement.

Tydingco-Gatewood said she is awaiting the filing of a motion to approve the settlement.

Bronster Hoshibata's original demand was for \$17.5 million

to be paid through installment.

With respect to the petitions for attorney's fees and costs separately filed by Johnson's original counsel Bruce Jorgensen and San Rafael, California-based lawyer Timothy Lord, Tydingco-Gatewood strongly encouraged them to continue talks between themselves and the CNMI government.

Tydingco-Gatewood said the discussions should be with the assistance of Hawaii chief bankruptcy judge Robert J. Faris if necessary, so that these pending matters may be resolved expeditiously without the need for further court action.

The judge gave Jorgensen no later than June 10, 2014, to file and serve more declarations containing all direct testimony that supports his motion for approval of the settlement reached with the CNMI government.

Lord was given no later than June 10, 2014, to file and serve a final fee petition with one or more declarations, containing all direct testimony that supports his petition.

Any party who objects to Lord's final fee application will be given no later than June 24, 2014, to file and serve one or more declarations containing all direct testimony that supports the objections.

Jorgensen initially requested at least \$18.6 million, but he settled with the government for \$800,000. The court, however, placed the matter under advisement.

Lord's initial demand was either \$3.6 million or \$5.9 million. The judge placed his petition under advisement.

Johnson's local counsel, Stephen Woodruff, asked between \$1 million to \$2.9 million, but he settled with the government for \$185,000. Last March 3, Tydingco-Gatewood approved the CNMI government's settlement with Woodruff.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 2, 2006

CNMI-wide hardship felt

Economic hardship was felt in almost all economic sectors of the CNMI—banking, remittance, auto sales, visitor arrivals, and other businesses—during the first three months of this year, as reflected in the latest statistics from the government. The 2006 first quarter economic indicators report by the Commerce Department showed that total deposits in CNMI banks dropped by 14 percent compared with the same period last year. From \$582.7 million total deposits in the first quarter of 2005, the figure went down to \$503.8 million this year.

Service overtakes garment in workforce

In the first quarter of the year, the Commonwealth's service industry employed more nonresident workers than all other industries in the CNMI, including the garment sector. The CNMI Quarterly Economic Indicators report for January to March 2006 showed that work permits issued to "services" totaled 2,373, the highest among industries. The garment sector, which employs the biggest number of nonresident workers, only had 2,090 permits during the period.

June 2, 2007

3-week lights out at San Antonio stores

Many small establishments at two commercial buildings in San Antonio claim that they have had no electric power for almost a month now, resulting in losses to their businesses. Business owners said the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. removed most of the electric meters at the two two-story buildings on May 5 and has not returned them, nor has CUC reconnected them to the power supply. "We are losing 30 percent of our sales because of lack of power for three weeks now," said the owner of AI Fashion 3.

MVA recognizes its employees

The Marianas Visitors Authority held its Employee Recognition Awards ceremony on May 29, 2007, to recognize their Employee of the Year, Leadership of the Year and employees who have been employed with MVA for the last 10 and 15 years. Edward D. Diaz, who is currently a Community Development Specialist for the Public Relations & Community Programs Division, was awarded the Employee of the Year award. Diaz was the Employee of the Quarter for February – April 2007. He was recognized for his positive attitude, job knowledge and his overall performance as a true team player. Waynold "Wayne" V. Pangelinan, Marketing Manager for the Marketing division of MVA, received the Leadership Award this year. Pangelinan has been with the MVA for seven years. He was recognized for his reliability, dependability and his job knowledge.

June 2, 2008

Stimulus checks set off spending spree

The release of "economic stimulus" checks sent local consumers into a shopping frenzy during the weekend. As soon as the rebate checks hit mailboxes on Friday, long lines formed at the Bank of Guam branch in Garapan with people cashing their windfall. This continued through Sunday at the bank's branch inside PriceCostco. Everywhere, the common refrain was, "Did you get your stimulus check yet?" Retail stores reported a huge increase in sales, as customers bought things they could not afford with regular pay. Bars, restaurants, and beauty shops saw a rush of customers eager to give themselves a treat.

And then there were seven...

Television talk show host John Oliver Gonzales is the latest candidate to enter the delegate race, bringing to seven the number of those who have confirmed plans to run for the post. Gonzales announced on Saturday his bid to become the Northern Marianas' first delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives. He is running as an independent candidate. Currently serving as the director of the Department of Public Lands' mining division, Gonzales has worked for the government in various capacities since 1993. He has also hosted the John Gonzales LIVE talk show program on Flametree KSPN 2, formerly MCV, for the past 15 years. In an interview, Gonzales said the delegate job is much like hosting a talk show. "As a delegate, your principal obligation is to bring issues to the people, allow them to voice their concerns, and take those concerns to our leaders in Washington, D.C."

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Delta Air Lines celebrates 25 years of service to Saipan

Delta Air Lines celebrated its 25th anniversary of non-stop service between Tokyo-Narita and Saipan on June 1, 2014.

"We are proud to celebrate 25 years of service between Tokyo-Narita and Saipan as the only airline offering a convenient year-round schedule between Japan and Saipan," said Vinay Dube, Delta's senior vice president-Asia Pacific. "Delta's Saipan flights complement a robust portfolio of scheduled services between Japan and Guam, Palau, and Honolulu offering an unmatched breadth of holiday options for the Japanese traveler."

"Delta Air Lines is the link from Japan and beyond to the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Because of their service, hundreds of thousands of Japan nationals have visited the shores of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota," said Perry John P. Tenorio, managing director of the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Demapan thanks supporters for Friday fundraiser

GOP Precinct 1 House candidate Angel Aldan Demapan expressed his sincere appreciation to everyone who supported his birthday fundraiser last Friday at the Garapan Central Park.



Demapan

"I am so humbled by the show of support from throughout our community," said Demapan. "The campaign has still got a long way to go, but my team and I will continue to visit with residents to listen to their concerns and ideas."

Demapan also thanked his committee-to-elect for all their hard work and for a very successful fundraiser.

"From the start of my candidacy, these hardworking members of our community have put in countless hours of hard work to advance the agenda of our campaign," added Demapan. "I am honored and privileged by their support and friendship."

In addressing the crowd gathered at his fundraiser, Demapan noted that progress is on the horizon, but it takes a strong and cooperative leadership willing to work for the people to achieve progress.

Demapan seeks to rebuild the spirit of community by reconnecting the Legislature to the villages.

"As a lifelong resident of Precinct 1, I don't just know about the hardships of our people, I live those hardships with them. I have met with residents, old and young alike, and the common sentiment is apparent: stronger, safer, and healthier communities."

Demapan's campaign can be followed online at www.facebook.com/angeldemapan2014. (PR)

Authority. "The Northern Mariana Islands are a well-loved overseas beach destination due to its close proximity and ease of access from Japan. The Marianas Visitors Authority extends its congratulations and appreciation to Delta Air Lines for 25 years of fostering the bonds of friendship between the Northern Marianas and Japan through tourism. The MVA and the NMI travel industry look forward to another 25 years of partnership with Delta Air Lines."

To celebrate the 25th anniversary, Delta staff will distribute special commemorative gifts to passengers flying between Narita airport and Saipan airport on June 1, 2014.

Delta launched its first flight from Tokyo-Narita to Saipan on June 1, 1989, as Northwest Airlines, using a Boeing 747-200 aircraft twice a week. Currently, Delta operates 12 flights per week carrying up to 2,000 pas-

sengers each week using Boeing 757-200 aircraft.

Passengers flying from Saipan can connect to eight U.S. gateways through Delta's Asian hub at Tokyo-Narita, including New York, Atlanta, Detroit, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Seattle, Portland, Los Angeles, and Honolulu and an extensive network within and beyond the United States.

Delta has been the sole airline sponsor of the Saipan Marathon

since 2008 and has supported many charitable organizations including the American Red Cross, Commonwealth Cancer Association, Rotary Club of Saipan, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Northern Mariana Islands Humanities Council, Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, and the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, among many other community organizations.

Saipan is the largest of the Northern Mariana Islands and the capital. About 12.5 miles long and 5.5 miles wide, Saipan

is the principal island and major commercial center of the archipelago. Formed by a rising coral reef, this tropical paradise offers beautiful white sand beaches with crystal clear water, ocean riding, and fresh, clean air. The island is a popular travel destination among Japanese and Asian travelers.

Delta operates over 40 flights per week connecting Japan and Micronesian islands—Saipan, Guam, and Palau, in addition to non-stop flights to Hawaii, U.S. mainland gateways, and major Asian cities. (Delta)

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THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE OUR WEEKEND TOURNAMENT A SUCCESS.

Opinion

Hafa Adair!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Obama's strategy: Outsource the war on terror

President Barack Obama last week charted a vision for protecting America that relies less on military power and more on training foreign security forces to fight on their own soil. His context: Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have taught American leaders about the power—and limits—of U.S. military options.

The U.S. still has a vital interest in dismantling terror networks and havens, the president said. Terrorism remains “the most direct threat to America at home and abroad.” But “a strategy that involves invading every country that harbors terrorist networks is naive and unsustainable.” No argument there.

Instead, Obama told graduating West Point cadets, “we must shift our counterterrorism strategy—drawing on the successes and shortcomings of our experience in Iraq and Afghanistan—to more effectively partner with countries where terrorist networks seek a foothold.”

He invoked battlegrounds or sectarian conflicts on which he'd seek to spend money: He said he would ask Congress to approve up to \$5 billion to bolster Syrian rebels, train security forces in Yemen, help the French quell terrorists in Mali, support a multinational force to keep the peace in Somalia and work with European allies to secure Libya. He talked about Western efforts to isolate Russia—but not about strengthening Ukraine's military.

What Obama can't know is what country or region will join that list in the coming hours, days or weeks. Or what that surprise may require of America's military, its diplomatic corps, its citizens. The world has a way of wrecking the grand visions of leaders who expect it to conform to their carefully formulated foreign policy doctrines.

Possible case in point: Afghanistan. On Tuesday, Obama proposed to keep 9,800 U.S. troops there after year's end, to help train Afghan security forces and mount counterterrorism operations against a still-potent Taliban. That's a smart move that this page has supported.

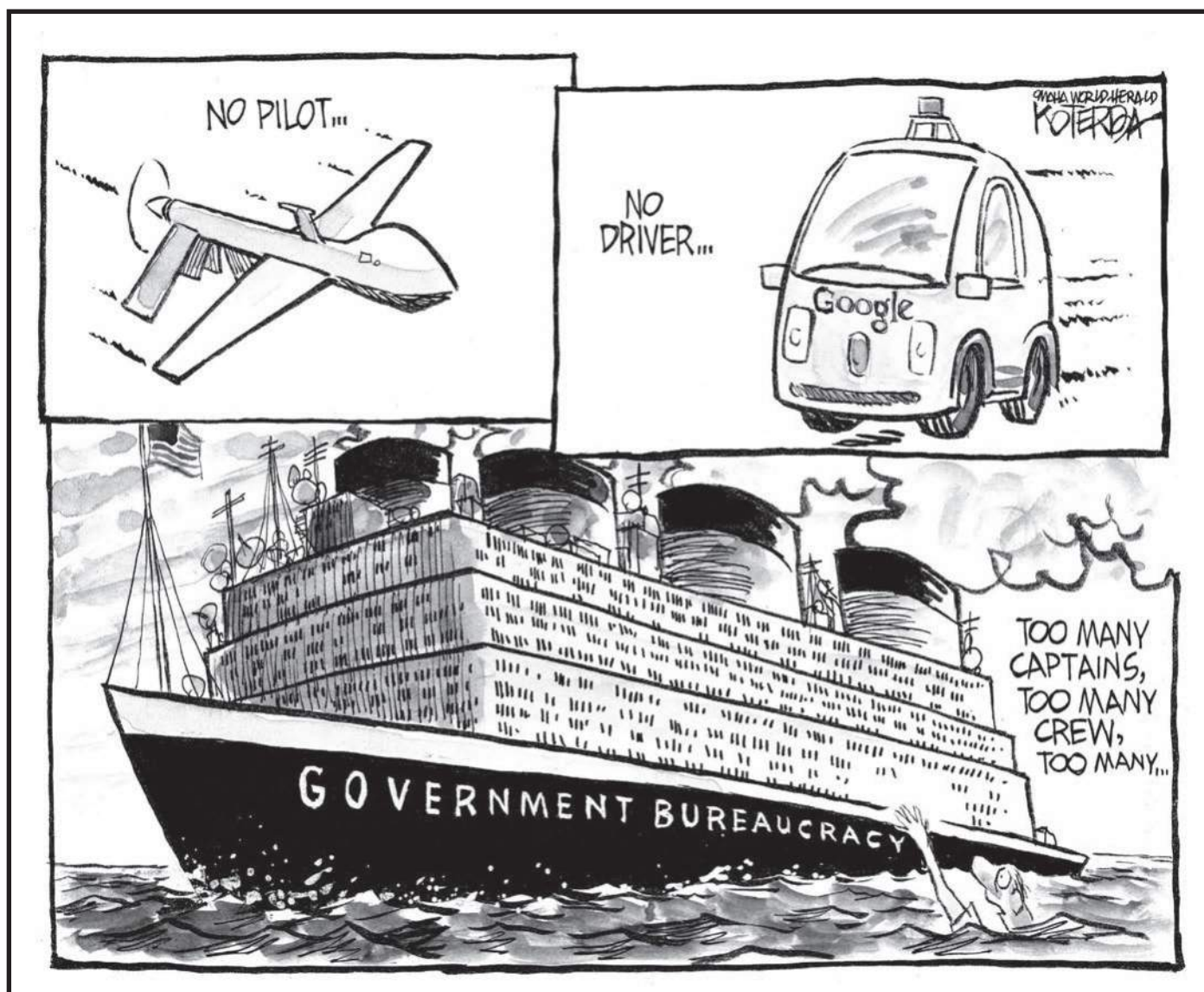
However...Obama also promised that all U.S. troops would be withdrawn by the end of 2016. Then Afghan forces will be “fully responsible” for Afghan security. We think that timetable needs an asterisk: Depends on conditions on the ground.

What happens if military leaders tell Obama in 2016 that closing U.S. bases will cripple their ability to devastate terror havens and target plotters? What if a future Afghan president urgently requests continued U.S. military backup?

We don't know if Afghan forces can hold their own against the Taliban after the U.S. leaves. The end of 2016 is undiscovered territory, a world impossible to fully imagine or anticipate.

We're sure Obama realizes that Wednesday's foreign policy pronouncement has a limited shelf life. By this time next year, a fresh field of presidential candidates will be touting their agendas. They'll debate the use of force, how to battle terror and protect America—in short, how to build on Obama's successes and avoid his failures.

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The dragon in a boat festival

It is a merry occasion, the dragon boat festival. And like any other national festival in any country, it involves all kinds of physical activities. Oarsmen in long sleek canoes slice their oars in cadence in the waters of the Thames in London and do so for competitive reasons, often in honor of God and country! Dragon boat paddlers do so for the rice. Yup, the rice, wrapped in green leaves, sometimes in coconut if one was further south of Shanghai. Splendid Chinese cuisine follows.

The story is of a poet who incurred the disfavor of a sovereign so he made himself scarce and when his sovereign's kingdom was overtaken, drowns himself in the river, but the peasants who revered the poet did not wish the fish to consume his flesh, so they rowed their boats fast to find him and threw their precious rice into the water so the fish would not devour his flesh. A poignant story, senseless to the rational mind, but we are talking of just one of the stories in many history-long tradition. To question the details would be like inquiring if Adam and Eve's offspring had incest in their concupiscence to continue the genetic line. Duh!

Festivals are what we make of it at the time of celebration, and finding an occasion to celebrate is more important than dissecting whether the chosen rationale stands to reason. Celebration is the point, and that's what makes it all together human in my experience. Celebrations represent the discontinuous that occasions awe and wonder, full of surprises and infinite mystery. Celebration is about self-expenditure and to achieve the level of expended selfhood can only be an asset in the journey of humankind.

The Dragon Boat Festival obviously has nothing to do with dragons, the non-existent animal that tops the animal pantheon in Sino imagination. The “magic” of its observance is the double-five in the lunar calendar, the fifth day in the fifth month, so it is the Fifth of May among my students who are continually confused when we review the Gregorian names of days and months. The lunisolar calendar is best depicted with just numbers (e.g., 05-05) rather than words.

Our point is not about the facticity of any festival's rationale or their historical beginnings. It is the festive perspective that intrigues us; it steps outside the norm and gleefully embraces the new and unexpected. To celebrate is to be open, to be open is to be free, and to be free is to be innovative and creative. That must be why in celebrations, time stops dead center and space colorfully blooms in the décor and the din of boom-booms.

One of the things I've noticed that weighs down life processes in our United States is the widespread desire to be predictable. That used to be Europe's predicament, with the royal's incessant desire to be permanently settled, defending the status quo as long as mon-

By **JAIME VERGARA**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



archs remain on top of the social hierarchy, trickling down the leavings to the rest of the population. Russia and America are children of this aging continent, Russia of deposed cousins and Bolsheviks, and America the prodigal child of Jamestown and the Puritans. They had been fighting since to determine who takes care of grandma.

America was always heading west until it got clogged in mud in Pea Eye. Democrats in the South saw a threat to their agricultural hold from the bloody farmers and verdant fields of a newly acquired Pacific archipelago, so they lobbied to grant independence, while the Republican financiers of business expansion saw dollar bills in an oriental market and made sure they had front seat in the Chambers of Commerce, and the ear of the diplomats by Manila Bay. We tried same by the Han river and the grunts RR at Walker Hill but Mekong rowers said *Khong!*

We turned guardians of the fossil fuel market elbowing our way to the Middle East, lending our technology on the resource development and production ends, until '63 when the oil producing nations cried, “Whoa!” So we became generous with our military equipment and arsenal, turning the desert and their isles into oasis of greed and royal luxuries.

Charlie Chan was the butt of our jokes until he decided to take his Dragon Boat Festival beyond its two rivers. At the mouths of the Huanghe and Chiang Jiang to the continental shelf was black gold, all within waters traditionally in China's Nine Dash Line. But wolves in silk three-piece suits and Ivy League onionskin holders thought they were still dealing with Charlie Chan. Of China's leaders, Mao Zedong did not think so; Deng Xiaoping made them continue to think so but acted otherwise and went on to lead the “Second Revolution” under the aegis of “Reform.” Jiang Semin gave a mindful and literary touch to his watch while Hu Jintao broadened trade but scrutinized the fine prints before signing on the dotted lines. Xi Jinping revived the pursuit of the “China Dream,” energizing the Dragon in the annual Boat Festival.

Duanwujie is the double-five. May Mi Guo'er row his boat by the lagoon shore, this day, hallelujah!

Reality: Income fluctuation

No one is spared income fluctuation throughout a lifetime. Everybody gets to deal with the hardship of this eventuality. In other words, there's a huge gap in your income between your prime and that of your golden years in retirement.

It is the latter that you should seriously review. The strength of your retirement pay collapses, e.g., the administration cuts 25 percent of your paycheck. Trust me, it's troubling even with a conscious spending plan in place.

The death of the retirement program is troubling for active employees in "nowhere land." They've nothing to look forward to after 20 years of service. How do they deal completing paying for the first family home, costly health insurance, and other family obligations? It's one tough nut to crack especially when one contracts degenerative long-term illnesses.

It's an issue everybody would have to deal with and no one is spared the cost and struggle with illnesses as you age. It's a deep valley without human trail. It's a dead zone area. It's hard finding the pinnacle of the hill from the abyss that leads nowhere, financially. It's the new financial reality where even negligible pennies turn vital change.

Some may qualify for federal entitlement programs like Medicaid and NAP. But for those who can't get in the bout is especially difficult when you reach your golden years. No fun-walk in the park either. It becomes even harder when one is bed-ridden.

The kids may be around to help but they also have their own set of familial obligation. It's comforting though the strong sense of communal sharing where we pitch-in to help in whatever way we can. Comforting!

Friends, long-term illnesses do not leave much room for maneuvering. Often it hits when you least expect it. It's hard all the way around. My mental acuity is still strong refusing to accept that my physical health has devolved into ailment land. But this journey is a sure thing for every Tom, Dick and Harry. If you could engage saving for that rainy day, do it today!

Mundane stuff

Buddy Magoo is staging what he hopes would be an annual con-

Thai coup holds promise of democracy

By W. SCOTT THOMPSON

LOS ANGELES TIMES

In the millennium of Thai history, the distinction between civilian and military servant of the king has barely existed. Certainly for five centuries generals became ministers and ministers became generals. Since 1932, the Royal Thai Army has always had the last word on who governs. There have been short periods of democracy, when the interests of a broader electorate have coincided with corporate Army interests.

That's one way to look at the coup d'etat that unfolded last week in Thailand. Army Gen. Prayuth Chan-ocha and the military forced out an acting prime minister who, in turn, had taken over after the Constitutional Court removed Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra from office this month in an abuse-of-power case. Yingluck, a caretaker premier, had governed by taking orders from her brother, despot and former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who is in self-exile in Dubai.

The nation has been embroiled in months-long political protests between the "Yellow Shirts"—urban Thais who support the king and the established interests who wanted the sitting government out—and the "Red Shirts"—mostly poorer residents of the provinces who support Thaksin and seek his return to power.

So as an ambitious and capable general tries to stabilize the nation—and now with the king's public stamp of approval—it's entirely possible that he will prove that coups are not all bad.

The roots of the political turmoil are deep.

ference at the CK Cemetery. He said the last one he held was very successful. "Conferees all agreed with my presentation and there were not questions either." He didn't say that the participants are all in their graves. Thus the dead silence and full agreement in everything he said. Why not invite legislators so there's fodder for comedy, *lai*?

■ ■ ■

Over the last 45 years, I've heard every political candidate belt it out in the campaign trail. Most never said anything of substance but are sufficiently shallow to think they did. One braved re-echoing ad nauseam the statement of the previous speaker. When he got down the latter said, "Braddah, I didn't say what you said I said." Ooops! Failed to engage the brain.

■ ■ ■

Another speaker ripped off a piece of an empty beer case and used it when called to address the crowd. He was waving it saying, "You have to have a plan. This is our plan!" He knows he's got the crowd fooled who were too busy high-fiving with tons of beer. A ripped beer case turned NMI plan? Clever!

■ ■ ■

The rainstorm started out early evening as a drizzle until it engulfed and drenched the entire island by dawn. This phenomenon is similar to the economic hardship at home. It started out with negligence, turned apathetic, and mediocre that has flooded every household Marianas-wide. Unfortunately the heavy squalls would be around for quite some time. Brace for it in the event it turns into a storm at the village level.

■ ■ ■

It tickles the mind the taste of the New Zealand sandwich, you know, the ones given to our legislators for attending a gay marriage ceremony. The guys were there for a power generation conference and had time for a wedding. Eh, our power bill is still prohibitively expensive and is bound to skyrocket some more. It needs a different DNA to bring it down. Let's go!

■ ■ ■

One often wonders if what we've said against casino is understood at all. If we've failed, what's the culprit in the apparent mis-

The catastrophic economic crisis of 1997-98 led to a broadly based Constitution in which a popular base (as opposed to a purely royal one) was recognized. Hard-working Thais repaired the economic damage rapidly. But never in such circumstances do the rewards get distributed evenly, and they certainly weren't this time. The huge populations of the north and northeast were just waiting to be harnessed by any politician who would promise them their fair share of the national wealth.

It was Thailand's bad luck, like Germany's in the 1930s and Italy's in the 1920s, to get a demagogue promising heaven and then some. Thaksin had made billions in the cellphone industry and had begun buying off journalists and northern politicians. He overwhelmingly won the 2001 election and then quickly showed his true colors. He put the lid on the parts of the media he didn't already control, reportedly had 3,000 small-time drug dealers killed in his war on drugs and generally showed that he was there to stay.

Democratic theory has never meant simple rule by the majority. Thaksin certainly used checks and balances but of a different sort to strengthen his power base in the police and with evidently less success with the army. He opened the coffers for the north. The military had thrown Thaksin out in 2006 but was a little lazy in replacing him with anything viable. Eventually it caught him on a criminal act, and that's when he went into exile.

And the Red Shirts and Yellow Shirts have been at it since. Through it all, however, the Thai economy has mostly absorbed these bumps and continues to grow. But this obviously cannot go on forever.

It is always difficult to justify a coup d'etat, even when replac-

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.

communication?

Said Magoo, "Eh, when you write for da kine article, make for da kine short, braddah. You see, da guys struggle on two fronts: 1.) Reading what you've written. 2.) Understanding what was written." I'm convinced that the issues were discussed in simple English.

Warmed Magoo, "You see, braddah, when you say too much too quickly, no time for da kine boys on da hill to digest and collect wisdom from what was said, yeah?" Is the problem inadequacy of knowledge-based repertoire under their belts or volume? And how do you deal with those whose reading comprehension is stuck at the fifth grade level?

■ ■ ■

You need to read something in order to think through materials or a serious matter to buckle down to brainstorming what's at issue.

I'd rummage through large dailies from New York, D.C., L.A., Japan, and my favorite newspaper, the *Wall Street Journal*. Either that or I'd download heavy materials from various foundations saving documents like constitutionalism, the Judeo-Christian principle upon which was founded the U.S. Constitution, investment spiral and decline; inequality; poverty; freedom and democracy in the Middle East or Asia, among others.

There's the thirst for knowledge and an understanding of issues from near and far. How interesting the power of ideas that I have come to terms with and how easily they could be implemented right here at home so we exit persistent bouts with fiscal and financial crisis. While there's the dearth for conscious leadership amidst the deepening mess, it's sad that it doesn't exist. Si JR.

ing a wretched regime. It is true that we have something of a zero-sum game here. The Red Shirts and the Yellow Shirts see nothing in common. To succeed, the military would have to guarantee the gains of the Red Shirts in recent years (in education, healthcare, etc.) while ensuring the continuity of the ruling dynasty, and the very broad political and economic interests associated with it. Luckily, there are plenty of the good things—thanks to the enormous wealth generated by rapid growth—to spread around.

To justify opposition to the coup requires support for Thaksin, a man who would brook no opposition, not even from the palace, and who would rule with an iron hand as long as he—or those he chooses to succeed him—lives.

Personally, my surprise is that the general has waited this long. He has played his hand carefully, declaring a neutral martial law one day and taking power in the next. The army has not produced a general of such widely regarded competence in half a century.

To choose the Thaksin regime is to guarantee the death of democracy for Thailand's foreseeable future. To support the army, may, just may, be the only way to restore it. It has been a general historical truth that regimes bringing order at least make a democratic transition possible. The converse is seldom true. Permissive regimes tend to lead to crackdowns that doom enlightened rule.

W. Scott Thompson, professor emeritus of international politics at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, is an expert on Southeast Asia now living in Bali and Manila. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hey! Another thing to fix in the CNMI

In Friday's *Saipan Tribune*, the CUC executive director states that "CUC has 120 water wells, many of which do not have standby generators." So far so good. Then he couldn't say how many were without generators. It is a very common accounting practice to keep a list of all equipment, acquisition date and cost, their use and location. If he had his tablet with him he could have just touched the screen and retrieved the information, or maybe not, because that kind of information might not exist in offices in the CNMI.

Executive directors from almost every department seem to have the same problem when attending meetings or talking to the press so they are either incompetent or their staff is incompetent, but it's a fact, some warm body in that department is incompetent. Maybe we need to audit the organizational skills of department heads as well as their funds.

I was at Smiling Cove awhile back and needed the restroom. It

was locked so I went inside the back door to the office and found the manager, with his feet on his desk smoking. I told him I think there is a no smoking policy in all government offices; I'd be dead if looks could kill. The only bathroom at Smiling Cove has apparently never been opened because CUC has never hooked up the water to the bathrooms, police rescue area, all those piers and docks where the CNMI earns probably 20 percent of all their tourist tax dollars. Blame has to be shared here, the Smiling Cove manager needs to manage and CUC needs to act.

The CNMI government is like a giant machine with lots of moving parts; some old timers might remember the sugarcane factory machines. If you removed even one part, the whole machine stopped working properly. That's what's happening here in the CNMI. CUC doesn't hook up Smiling Cove's water, tourists tell their friends, can't pee, no water, Tax and Revenue doesn't

get the expected revenue, Parks and Recreation has to cut back on grass cutting, tourists tell friends, governor cuts MVA budget, fewer tourists, less revenue, Legislature calls special meeting, only solution is to go to Macao and study the problem (the meeting could be held on Google+ for free of course but six guys will spend your money to go anyway).

Our education system doesn't even have a class on "why the CNMI government is in the state it is in" so how do you voters of Saipan expect change when you do the same thing, vote for the same incompetent people over and over and expect a different outcome? Only two words can define this, you're insane. Actually I borrowed that from Albert Einstein, but if the shoe fits, wear it.






Gary DuBrall

Chalan Piao, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼77°	▲89° ▼77°	▲89° ▼77°	▲89° ▼77°	▲89° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲82 ▼79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼80
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82 ▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼80
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼79

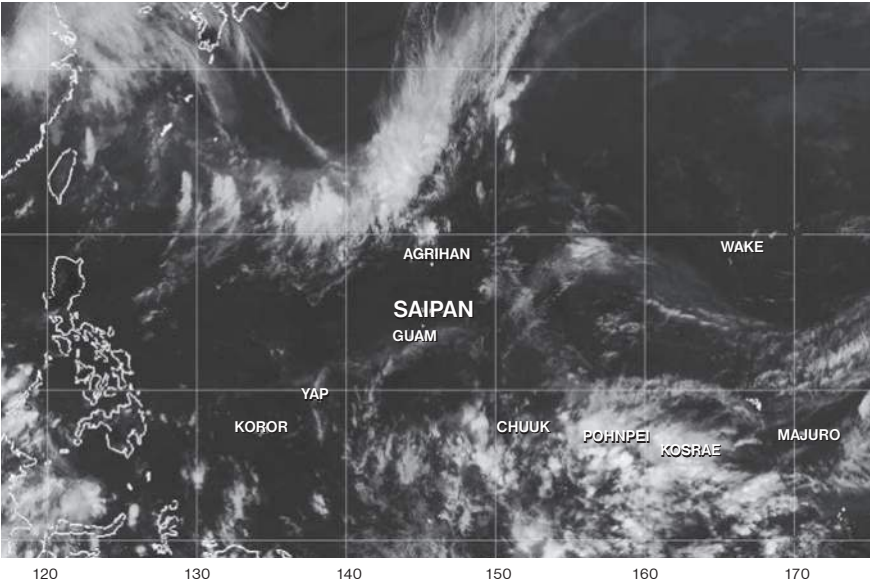
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲61 ▼53
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲85 ▼61
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼81
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲83 ▼72
London	Showers	▲67 ▼54
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲79 ▼58
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲90 ▼79
Melbourne	Showers	▲60 ▼54
Miami	Thundershowers	▲84 ▼76
New York	Sunny	▲72 ▼57
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲85 ▼66
Paris	Cloudy	▲68 ▼54
Pusan	Cloudy	▲72 ▼64
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲75 ▼58
Salem	Sunny	▲77 ▼51
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲63 ▼50
Seoul	Cloudy	▲81 ▼65
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲84 ▼66
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲78 ▼55

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
12:14 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
6:01 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
10:28 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
5:50 PM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.1 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A stationary front extends southwestward from 25N145E to 21N140E then westward to 22N131E then northwestward to beyond 130E. Extensive cloudiness. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring well northwest of the Marianas along and up to 300 miles northwest of this boundary. A near-equatorial trough stretches eastward from 5N130E to a weak circulation near 4N145E then southeastward to EQ153E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found southeast of Yap and southwest of Chuuk between 1N and 8N from 144E to 152E. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Pohnpei and Kosrae between the equator and 8N from 154E to 164E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Kwajalein and Majuro within 120 miles of a line from 2N166E to 8N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46 AM	6:44 PM
Tuesday	5:46 AM	6:45 PM
Wednesday	5:46 AM	6:45 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:45 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:45 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:18 AM	10:14 PM
Tuesday	10:07 AM	10:55 PM
Wednesday	10:54 AM	11:54 PM
Thursday	11:41 AM	
Friday	12:29 PM	12:12 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

- CAMPUS BULLETIN
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
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 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
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- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2014

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3	UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:30pm	4:10pm	6, 7 via Rota	UA5039	1:10pm	2:00pm	6, 7
UA5078	3:20pm	4:10pm	1, 5	UA5038	1:10pm	2:50pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5038	3:20pm	4:10pm	2, 4	UA5077	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 5
UA5040	7:05pm	7:55pm	1, 5	UA5041	5:45pm	6:35pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:50pm	11:40pm	1, 5	UA5043	9:30pm	10:20pm	1, 5
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5039	2:30pm	3:05pm	6, 7	UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5039	3:35pm	4:10pm	6, 7	UA5038	2:15pm	2:50pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)				PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	11:20pm	2, 6 via NRT	DL298	4:30am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	1, 3, 5, 7	OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764A	3:30am	7:30am	4, 7	MU763A	6:50pm	2:30am+1	3, 6
MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5	MU763	7:20am	3:00am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL172/288	7:55am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM	UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
DL287/473	6:05am	10:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM	UA184/5039	10:25pm	2:00pm+1	6 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:30pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA5038/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	2 via GUM	UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	5 via GUM	UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:20pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM	UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM	UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN	UA184/5039	11:30pm	2:00pm+1	5 via GUM
				UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM	D28008	6:05pm	1:20am+1	May 18, 22, 27, June 1, 5, 10, 15, 19, 24, 29, July 3, 8, 13, 17, 22, 27, 31
D28009	12:50pm	4:05pm	May 18, 22, 27, June 1, 5, 10, 15, 19, 24, 29, July 3, 8, 13, 17, 22, 27, 31	UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:30pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM	UA180/5039	9:55pm	2:00pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA5078/179	3:20pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM	UA180/5038	9:55pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN	UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR; D2: Dynamic Air

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)



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Sea Wave Calamari
\$1.99 /LB.

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Lotus Jasmine Rice
\$23.99 50 LBS.

Spam (All Kinds)
\$2.35 12 OZ.

Black Label
\$1.79 12 OZ.

Corned Beef Hash
\$1.99 15 OZ.

Beef Stew
\$1.69 15 OZ.

Hormel Chili No Beans
\$1.89 15 OZ.

Hormel Chili with Beans
\$1.69 15 OZ.

Ox Palm Corned Beef
\$3.19 11.5 OZ.

Chicken Noodles
\$0.99 EA.

Tuna (All Kinds)
\$1.59 EA.

Vienna Sausage
\$0.59 EA.

Lemon Powder
\$5.49 EA.

Del Monte Pasta Sauce
\$1.49 EA.

Nestle Carnation Milk
\$1.29 12 OZ.

Kimchee Base
\$6.49 EA.

Tabasco
\$6.99 12 OZ.

Del Monte Ketchup
\$4.69 64 OZ.

Mayonnaise
\$10.49

Kikkoman Soy Sauce
\$4.69 3.6 L.

Fresco Veg. Oil
\$9.99 GAL.

AVO Veg. Oil
\$9.99 GAL.

Dragon Veg. Oil
\$29.99 5 GAL.

Teptip Coconut Milk
\$0.99 13.02

Vlasic Pickles
\$7.99 GAL.

M.Y. San Happy Time
\$7.99

Nestle Coffee Mate
\$7.99 50 OZ.

Folgers Coffee
\$11.99 33 OZ.

Coffee Mix
\$7.99 100PCS.

White Sugar
\$2.79 2 KG

Argo Corn Starch
\$1.19 16oz.

Kellogg's Cereal Family Size
\$12.99 52 OZ.

General Mills Cereal Family Size
\$8.99 38.3 OZ.

Duncan Hines Cake Mix
\$1.99

Nong Shim Bowl Noodle
\$8.99 BOX

Nissin Cup Noodles
\$6.59 CASE

| PRODUCE • PRODUCE • PRODUCE • PRODUCE • PRODUCE • PRODUCE • PRODUCE • PRODUCE |

Onion
\$0.69 /LB.

Potato
\$0.99 /LB.

Garlic
\$0.99 5 PCS.

Ginger
\$1.69 /LB.

Fuji Apple
\$1.49 /LB.

Extra Large Eggs
\$2.79 /DOZ.

U.S. Banana
\$1.29 /LB.

| NON-FOOD • NON-FOOD • NON-FOOD • NON-FOOD • NON-FOOD • NON-FOOD • NON-FOOD • NON-FOOD |

Purex
\$3.99 50 OZ.

Gain Powder
\$17.99 120 LOADS

Clorox
\$2.69 30 OZ.

Diamond Foil
\$7.99 200 sq.ft.

Kordite Foam Plates
\$6.99 150 COUNT

Isabel Tissue
\$4.99 12 ROLLS

Head & Shoulders Shampoo
\$7.69 23 OZ.

Luvs
\$18.99 BOX

Drypers
\$14.99 MEGA PACK

■ **EVERYDAY LOW PRICE**
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KEVIN'S CAFE

Monday - Saturday 6am - 8pm • Sunday 10am - 8pm

[Bento **\$4.95** 3 Choices]

KEVIN'S REAL ESTATE

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BEACH ROAD

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POST OFFICE

TUN SEGUDO ST.

LOCATION: BESIDE POST OFFICE, CHALAN KANOA



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS CUC-RFSOQ-14-017

DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT, SURVEYING, CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION, AND OTHER A&E PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR VARIOUS COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION WATER AND WASTEWATER PROJECTS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting Statements of Qualifications (SOQ) from qualified engineering consulting firms for the following purposes: Designing water and wastewater infrastructure including but not limited to water main, sewer main (gravity and pressure), lift stations, booster pumping stations, water storage reservoirs, treatment works, upgrades to existing facilities; providing construction management services including but not limited to submittal review, clarification and technical assistance related to contract plans and specifications, field engineering due to changes in conditions during construction, construction inspection, review of partial payment requests; surveying; and other related engineering services on various CUC Water and Wastewater Projects on the Islands of Saipan, Rota and Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFSOQ package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFSOQ package set. Prospective engineering consulting firms for this RFSOQ must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by May 30, 2014 to be considered.

A pre-proposal conference will be held on May 21, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST), at the CUC Training Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the SOQ must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFSOQ-14-017, Request for Statements of Qualifications" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 9, 2014**. Statements of Qualifications mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

All qualified engineering consulting firms are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the engineering consulting firm due to lack of information or understanding of the RFSOQ requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a SOQ under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible/ qualified engineering consulting firms for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All qualified engineering consulting firms shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from the SOQ submitted by competing qualified engineering consulting firms.

This RFSOQ does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of statements of qualifications in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC procurement regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable federal regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective respondents and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on May 22, 2014 to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Riegel, Chief Engineer, CUC Water/Wastewater Division via email address john.riegel@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all SOQ for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFSOQ, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All SOQ shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director,
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement & Supply
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Origami workshop at AMP

Learn the Japanese art of paper folding with visiting origami artist Sachiko Fujimori at the American Memorial Park. Fujimori will demonstrate a variety of models and assist participants with folding. The workshop is free and open to the public. Join us for this unique opportunity on June 4, 2014, from 6pm to 7pm at the American Memorial Park Visitor Center. Paper will be provided. *(NPS)*

Navy, Air Force training at Warning Area 517, FDM

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on June 3-4, from 12:30pm to 8:30pm

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- June 3, from 1pm to 5pm
- June 5, from 9am to 3pm
- June 6, from 9am to 2pm

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing

in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. *(PR)*

Family grief support meeting on June 5

A group that is in the process of forming a Compassionate Friends chapter on Saipan will be holding their monthly grief support meeting on Thursday, June 5, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai.

The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others to be supportive. Today more than 600 chapters serving all 50 states plus Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, and Guam offer friendship, understanding, and hope to bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents and other family members during the natural grieving process after a child has died.

For more information, call Jill Derickson at 989-9821 or e-mail jilld@pticom.com. To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit their website at www.compassionatefriends.org. *(PR)*

John Gonzales LIVE schedule

Last week's John Gonzales

LIVE that featured the PSS Heroes to Teachers Program will be replayed today, June 2, and tomorrow, June 3, on TV Channel 14, from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. The program also rebroadcasts on www.betelnutradio.com.

This week, on June 4, John Gonzales LIVE will feature the topic "Understanding the Affordable Care Act: What applies, what does not in the CNMI." Guests include Kaitlyn Mocanu and Anna B. Santos of the ACA Consumer Advocate Program, Department of Commerce. To participate in the discussion, contact via email: johngonzaleslive@gmail.com; call 287-9413; or text: 285-META (6382). *(PR)*

Fundraising event for Lee Pan on Friday

The Committee-to-elect Joseph "Lee Pan" Tenorio Guerrero is having a fundraising event on Friday, June 6, 2014, from 6pm to 10pm at the Garapan Central Park.

Guerrero who is running for the House of Representative under the NMI Republican Party along with his colleagues from Precinct 1.

Tickets are being sold and you can buy by calling 483-0143 / 783-0312 or by emailing sileepan2014@gmail.com. Tickets will also be on sale at the door. Raffle tickets will be on sale to include such prizes as deer, piglets, ducks, free golf pass, and other kitchen and household items. *(PR)*



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-14-015

UTILITY RATE & FINANCIAL CONSULTING SERVICES

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to provide Utility Rate and Financial Consulting Services.

The requested Utility Rate and Financial Services will assist CUC in revising the charge schedules for electricity, water and wastewater by conducting the appropriate rate studies and developing the related cost of service models. In addition to these base rate activities, CUC will also require assistance with periodic reviews of its levelized energy adjustment clause (LEAC) rates, water electric charge (WEC) rates, and wastewater electric charge (WWEC) rates. During the two year term of this contract, CUC anticipates filing 3 base rate cases (one each year for electric, water and wastewater) and at least four periodic reviews of the LEAC, WEC, and WWEC. Preparation of testimony and appearance at public hearings will also be required. Ad hoc rate related studies may also be requested from time to time.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one RFP package set. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by May 16, 2014 to be considered.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be held on May 15, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST), at the CUC Training Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC RFP 14-015, Utility Rate and Financial Consulting Services to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 4, 2014. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on May 16, 2014 to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email address charles.warren@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement & Supply



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS CUC-SOQ-14-013

DESIGN OF LOWER BASE SEWER SYSTEM

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting Statements of Qualifications (SOQ) from qualified architecture & engineering (A&E) firms to design the Lower Base Sewer System on the island of Saipan, which will replace the existing and dilapidated sewer system which dates back to the Naval administration of Saipan. The design will intercept the existing Capitol Hill sewer in the lower portion of Isa Drive, will service the main Lower Base industrial area, and will include a new lift station that will pump into the existing force main coming from Tanapag. This force main will be extended and enlarged from the point of connection to discharge to the existing S-3 lift station at the Saipan Seaport, enabling the abandonment of lift stations S-1, T-3, and the Tan Holdings lift station. Connection of all existing, active buildings within the area served by the design will also be included. A&E services will include the necessary geotechnical and surveying services to develop the design and construction documents. Work must be coordinated with the A&E firm selected by the CNMI Water Task Force (WTF) to design the Lower Base water system, which will be on-going at near the same time as this design contract. This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) and all work is subject to EDA review and approval.

The RFSOQ package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFSOQ package set. Prospective A&E firms for this RFSOQ must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by May 30, 2014 to be considered.

A pre-proposal conference will be held on May 22, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST), at the CUC Training Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the SOQ must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC SOQ 14-013, Request for Statement of Qualifications-Design of Lower Base Sewer System" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 6, 2014. Statements of Qualifications mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

All A&E firm are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the A&E firm due to lack of information or understanding of the Request for Statement of Qualifications requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a SOQ under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible/qualified A&E firms for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. A&E firms shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from the SOQ submitted by competing A&E firms.

This Request for Statements of Qualifications does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of statements of qualifications in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC procurement regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable federal regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on May 27, 2014 to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org. Responses to Questions will be provided no later than May 29, 2014.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All SOQ shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director,
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement & Supply
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Juliana Muña is GCA High School's top graduate

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Juliana Lizama Muña was named the most outstanding graduate of Grace Christian Academy after being bestowed with the highest academic honor as class valedictorian during Friday night's commencement exercises on campus.

Muña led the 20 graduating

class of GCA high school this year. Also the most outstanding graduate during her middle school promotions ceremony, Juliana is the daughter of Nick and Esther Muña.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Muña shared her plans of pursuing medicine at Seattle University.

In her inspiring message to fellow graduates, Muña recalled

the happy memories and meaningful experiences she has had with friends, mentors, and peers.

"These past four years have been exciting for all of us. We have proven ourselves to be as great as we can be," she said.

Muña described it as a great honor and privilege to be this year's class valedictorian. She expressed her gratitude and shared her achievements with

her proud parents, friends, and mentors who all helped her achieved her goals in high school.

For Muña, high school at GCA was not merely one of surviving but also about making memories of friendship, love, and faith. "That's what makes me proud to be a graduate of GCA; it's what makes me proud to be an Eagle."

Muña challenged her peers to maintain a positive attitude. "I would like to challenge all of you to be the change you wish to see. To live the life you wish to live. Commit to something, do something, achieve something, and experience everything. Be kind to others and help others that can't help themselves. In everything you do, do the best you can. Live your best. Life is pretty short, so make every moment count and you'll see how exciting life is," she added.

GCA bestowed its second highest academic honor on Kelly Ann T. Hofschneider, who emerged as this year's salutatorian. She is the daughter of William and Sue Hofschneider.



JULIANA LIZAMA MUÑA
Valedictorian



KELLY ANN T. HOFSCHEIDER
Salutatorian

The recipient of the prestigious Eagle Award was Leona Pangelinan, with Genesis Manglona earning runner-up honors.

Students who were recognized in the consistent honor roll

included Juliana Muña, Kelly Hofschneider, Seung Hyun Park, Ji Yeon Choi, William Sherwin Canedo, Se Ryeon Oh, Leona Yvonne Pangelinan, and Emman Parian.

Tebuteb earns his master's degree from UTSA

Eugene A. Tebuteb, a graduate of Marianas High School and resident of Chalan Kiya, Saipan, graduated with a master of science degree in Sociology at the University of Texas at San Antonio on May 11, 2014.

He is the son of Thomas Tebuteb and Tapita Alokoa and husband of Rutha Mizutani. They have two children, Leah, 9, and Bella, 1 month.

Before pursuing an undergraduate degree in Sociology, Tebuteb served in the U.S. Army for four years. He then attended Texas A&M University in Killeen, where he received an Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award, which is exclusively awarded to top students in their respective areas of study. In May 2011, he graduated with summa cum laude honors and received his bachelor of science degree.

After working as an employee benefits coordinator for Central Texas College in Killeen, he moved to San Antonio to pursue a master's degree in Sociology. Following one year of graduate school, he was elected by his peers to serve as vice president for Alpha Kappa Delta, a nationally recognized sociology honor society; he actively served for a full one-year term. His academic performance



EUGENE A. TEBUTEB

would soon elevate him to be in a position among the best and brightest students of UTSA, and was formally inducted into Phi Kappa Phi, one of the oldest, largest, and most selective collegiate honor societies for all academic disciplines in the U.S.

In his final year at UTSA, Tebuteb co-authored a research paper involving the improvement of quality and care for minority low-income children vis-à-vis early childhood education. This scholarly work has been accepted for publication by a major journal—the American Sociological Association—and is slated for presentation at the 2014 ASA Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California.

Tebuteb has also independently conducted research on Kindergarten readiness and has authored a paper that has been submitted to the ASA for publication.

Tebuteb graduated in the top 10 percent of his class and maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout graduate school.

He gives credit to a strong support system and extends his gratitude to his wife and children, parents, siblings, in-laws, extended families, friends, the G.I. Bill, CNMI Scholarship, SHEFA, and the CNMI Public School System. (PR)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Belated happy 22nd birthday to Christia Leon Guerrero, right, who celebrated her special day on May 31, 2014! May God bless you everyday! We love you and hope that you enjoy your special day!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday to our Iron Man aka Champion bka "Chummy," who turns 4 years old! God bless you always and we love very much! Greetings come from Aunt Don and Uncle Eric.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

JVA for YANO ENTERPRISES, INC. dba: Kinpachi Restaurant

Assistant Restaurant Manager (1): Responsible for managing the daily operations of the restaurant, includes assigning responsibilities to staff. In addition, must oversee the inventory and ordering of food and supplies, optimize profits and ensure that guests are satisfied with their dining experience, oversee and manage all areas of the restaurant and make final decisions on matters of importance to guest service. Enforce sanitary practices for food handling, general cleanliness, and maintenance of kitchen and dining areas. Ensure compliance with operational standards, company policies, federal/state/local laws, and ordinances. Be able to present oral & written reports to the Manager. Have basic Japanese oral skills and extensive knowledge of Japanese food products.

Cook (3): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi, & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus, must know cutting and preparation techniques for each type of fish used in sushi rolls as well as how to prepare rice, sauces and seasonal ingredients, must ensure that ingredients are fresh, colorful and always in stock, that the all-important knives are sharp and clean, and that all equipment is in working order. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

Assistant Cook (2): Responsible for preparing food as directed by a senior cook, assist the cook in the day to day preparation of food & efficient running of the kitchen. Ensure that all items are clean & ready for use before & after each shift, responsible for preparing items such as chopping vegetables, butchering meat, or cleaning seafood. Usually responsible for the storage of food, both incoming stock and leftovers.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test. Can work in flexible hours including weekends & night time.

Applicants of positions listed above are required to have a minimum of 3-5 year experience.

We are an equal opportunity employer. Qualified applicants will be considered. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan. Please no phone calls.

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION

Municipality of Tinian and Aguigan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold a Special Meeting on Tuesday, June 3, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
- II. Public Comments
- III. Reports
 - a. Chair's Report
 - b. Executive Director's Report
- IV. Unfinished Business
 - a) Mega Stars/Well Target Casino License Application
 - b) Action re: (Conditional) Casino License No. 08-01
- V. New Business
 - a) Action re: (Plenary) Casino License No. 13-01
 - b) Proposed FY2015 Budget
 - c) Selection of Investigator II
 - d) Casino Employee License Applications and Hotel Registrations
- VI. Executive Session
- VII. Miscellaneous/Administrative Matters
- VIII. Adjournment

¹Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
²Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff,
EDWIN B. TUDELA and PATRICIA A. TUDELA, Defendants.
) CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0209
) NOTICE OF HEARING ON PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR DEFAULT JUDGMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on June 4, 2014, at 9:00 a.m., a hearing will be held before Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja on Plaintiff's Motion for Default Judgment in the above-captioned matter, at the Superior Court for the CNMI, Guma Hustisia, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Respectfully submitted this 22nd day of April, 2014.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Judiciary Administrative Office

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

DEPUTY CLERK I

On the islands of TINIAN an ROTA

DUTIES: This position is under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge and the direct supervision of the Clerk of Court or his/her designee. The employee performs work in accordance with established policies, practices, and court procedures. The following are required duties:

- Receives, reviews, and records documents filed for hearings;
- Provides data entry of pleadings onto the court's case management system;
- Provides daily updates of pleadings and other caseload information for the assigned judge through the court's automated processes, including, but not limited to, the document imaging and online filing system;
- Assesses fines, receives and accounts for monies, issues receipts, prepares deposit slips, and provides disbursements per court order or requests from customer service window;
- Prepares and maintains physical and electronic file folders for court cases, including tracking of all pleadings associated with individual cases files;
- Serves as a courtroom clerk when court hearings are in session, including, but not limited to, swearing in of witnesses, logging of all admitted exhibits, tracking all phases of a hearing on an index sheet for the recording counter, operating the electronic recording equipment, and providing continuous monitoring of the recording equipment to ensure the integrity of the record; and,
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Must have a high school diploma or equivalent plus a minimum of three (3) years related work experience. There is a strong preference for those with work experience in the legal field and those with a Bachelor's Degree. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary will be \$20,485 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Imwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Michelle V. Guerrero
Human Resource/Administrative Officer
Guma Hustisia/Imwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)236-9818
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Wu leads 33 graduates from Mount Carmel



Graduating seniors perform their class song before concluding their commencement exercise last Saturday at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral.

THOMAS A. MANGLONA II

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

The past, present, and future intermingled in the eyes of 33 senior students of Mount Carmel School as they turned their tassels and officially became graduates of the sole Catholic school on Saipan.

Mount Carmel School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero congratulated and welcomed the graduates to the "AlumKnight" family, saying they are the 50th generation of Knights, the school's mascot, to graduate from Mount Carmel.

Senior student Ginny Wu was hailed as the class' valedictorian. Wu, who will be studying Biology at the University of California, Irvine, told her fellow graduates that her secret to success was finding her motivation, working hard, and not giving up.

"That's the method I used to succeed in high school," she said. "Now, I do not know exactly what I want to do with my life. I thought about it, but I do not know what I want."

Wu urged her classmates to find something that can sustain a happy and healthy life for them.

"Take a risk, because you never know unless you try," she added.

Wu thanked her school, parents, and friends for their support.

"Thank you for guiding me when I am lost or having a hard time. Thank you mom and dad for working 12 hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year with no breaks or holidays just to make money and send me to MCS."

Class salutatorian Leon Liang Lizama II shared Wu's message.

"My bond with the school progressed and the Mount Car-



GINNY WU
Valedictorian



LEON LIANG LIZAMA II
Salutatorian

mel School become more of a second home to me. This is a special day for all of us," he said. "The years have gone by so swiftly, yet all the experiences I went through, all the accomplishments I made, and all the people I met will never be forgotten."

Lizama added, "My educators wake up each day to prepare lessons and spend restless nights to go over the students' papers and plan for the next day. My parents invested their time and energy for the sake of my duration. You all did your best to make me open up and make me feel accepted. This [MCS] is a special place; let us not forget where we come from."

Besides academic honors, other awards were also presented to the graduates.

The traditional Bishop Tomas A. Camacho Service Award was given to Hyunsuk Joseph Kang, who was also named the 1st honor.

Andrea Manese received the President's Award for Meritorious Achievement, Ginny Wu was also named the Most Outstanding Female, and the Gov-

ernor's Award was awarded to Carey Demapan.

Twelve students also received the Loyalty Award: Andrea Manese, Dominic Travilla, Carey Demapan, Jasmine Che, Kaylani Lebría, Leon Lizama II, Angel Maliti, Mario P. Camacho, Michelle Kautz, Richelle Kautz, Tasha Deleon Guerrero, and Victor Cabrera. Recipients of this award attended Mount Carmel School for 12 consecutive years.

One graduate, Kaylani Lebría, said that she feels blessed to be surrounded by her current classmates.

"I can't believe how fast time has gone by. We are about to turn the page and begin the next chapter of our lives. The hardest part about beginning this chapter is knowing that we will all be starting it without each other," she told *Saipan Tribune*. "Our class was doubted many times and I am glad we proved everyone wrong."

This year's keynote address was delivered by 2005 AlumKnight Jacqueline Che.

Che told the students to be proud of their accomplishments

and to not forget the people who share in their pride.

"You are one of the most successful students to graduate from the CNMI this year," she said in her address.

Che urged the students to "keep the faith" as the school's founders did when they first rebuilt the school after it was hit by a typhoon.

"Keep that faith just as the founders did," she added. "With the dwindling number of student enrollment the past decade and the hard economic realities

of the CNMI, it also took significant faith to sustain MCS and keep her faith."

Che told the graduates that their presence at the ceremony last weekend is concrete manifestation of their faith.

"Despite challenges and obstacles, whether it be immigration issues, growing up with not a lot of money, or in a single parent home you all set your heart on this day—and in doing so you are following the footsteps of all the AlumKnights who came before you and you

have become an indelible part of the history of the school."

In his closing remarks, school president Galvin Deleon Guerrero thanked the graduates' parents for investing their money, time, and faith in what the school has to offer.

Guerrero told the graduates, "As you make your way out into the world, ready to face the darkness, fear, doubt, and uncertainty, remember this: You are a marvel. As a marvel all you need to do to defeat the darkness is to let your light shine."

IN CUC, CHCC LEGAL BATTLE

CHCC pays \$411,000; Wiseman extends TRO vs CUC

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has extended the temporary restraining order that prohibits the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. from disconnecting electric, water, and sewer utility services to the Commonwealth Health Center.

After a hearing on Thursday pertaining to CUC's request for preliminary injunction, Wiseman, however, ordered the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., which runs CHC, to keep current their monthly payment of utility billings to CUC.

Wiseman placed CUC's motion for preliminary injunction under advisement. The TRO will be in effect until the judge issues a written order on the preliminary injunction matter.

CHCC informed the court at the hearing that it paid CUC \$411,000 that same day.

Wiseman also handled CUC's lawsuit against government agencies, including CUC, over non-payment of billings

several years ago.

At the hearing on Thursday, CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña and CUC board chair David J. Sablan took the witness stand as the legal battle between the two agencies plays out in Superior Court.

Assistant attorney general David Lochabay, counsel for CHCC, presented Muña as a witness to support CHCC's motion for preliminary injunction that seeks to prohibit CUC from disconnecting utility services to the public hospital.

James Sirok, legal counsel for CUC, called Sablan to the witness stand to support CUC's opposition to the motion for preliminary injunction.

Wiseman recently granted

CHCC's request to issue a TRO against CUC.

In granting the TRO, the judge said CHCC would suffer immediate and irreparable harm should CUC disconnect any of its utility services as CHCC would become immediately unable to provide critical health-care and public health services to the public.

CUC has threatened to disconnect unspecified utility services to CHCC due to outstanding arrears. In December 2013, CUC filed a lawsuit against CHCC to collect utility services in the amount of \$9,690,875, together with pre-judgment interest. It was last reported that the hospital owes CUC \$11 million in past due accounts.

BankGuam declares Q2 dividends

BankGuam Holding Co. announced Friday that its board of directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.125 per share at the board's regular meeting on Tuesday, May 27, 2014. The dividend will be paid on June 30, 2014, to shareholders of record as of June 16, 2014.

"We are pleased with the bank's performance in our improving economy, and happy to announce that we are continuing our practice of paying quarterly dividends to our shareholders," explained president and board chair Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero. (BoG)

Ishikawa, Omori top MBA graduating class



THOMAS A. MANGLONA II

The 17 graduates of Marianas Baptist Academy's Class of 2014 pose for a group photo after the 27th commencement exercise for the school last Friday at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

» Marianas Baptist Academy graduates 17

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Seventeen graduates of Marianas Baptist Academy fought back tears in a moving commencement ceremony last Friday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center.

Students of the 27th graduating class were graced with several honors and awards witnessed by dozens of school faculty and staff, family, and friends.

Following the confirmation of the graduates, students gave individual testimonies expressing their gratitude to key figures in their lives.

Alina Ishikawa and Kanata Omori were presented the highest academic honors and were named as the class' valedictorians.

Ishikawa, in her remarks, said that Friday's event was "bittersweet."

"It is finally our turn to close this chapter of high school and write the sequel to the story we end today," she told her class-



ALINA ISHIKAWA
Valedictorian

mates. "College is a new start that introduces new friends, but you will always remain my originals."

"It is time to move on and continue on our own separate ways. I hope that you all enjoy college life and I wish you all the best of luck in everything you do," said Ishikawa, who will be studying Pharmacy at the Northeastern University.

The 17-year-old student expressed gratitude to the school's faculty, teachers, and her parents, Akemi and Juko Ishikawa.

Fellow valedictorian Kanata Omori sympathized with



KANATA OMORI
Valedictorian

Ishikawa.

"Life as a student of Marianas Baptist Academy is not easy, but it is rewarding," he said in his address. "I want to thank my parents for everything. From birth until present, they have stuck by me through it all."

He told his fellow graduates, "We aren't starting a new chapter in our lives, we are merely continuing on a much bigger scale. Don't change who you are, because once you do that, you start to lose sight of what truly matters."

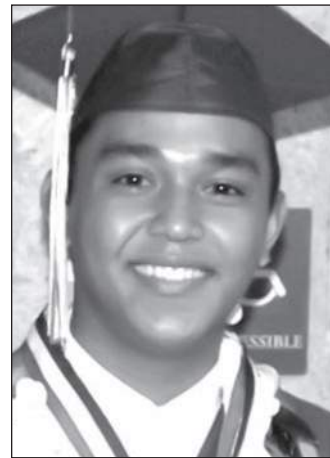


YUI NAOMI ITO
Salutatorian

Omori, who also received the Leadership Award, plans to study communication at the University of Virginia. He is the son of Annarose and Takahiro Omori.

The school also named two salutatorians—Yui Naomi Ito and Kristian Brian Reyes.

Michael Kevin Cataluna, Alina Ishikawa, Kanata Omori, Sang Hyuk Park, and Denise Rae Samson received the Loyalty Award. The award is given to students who have attended the academy since ju-



KRISTIAN BRIAN REYES
Salutatorian

nior high school.

Michael Kevin Cataluna and Susanne Mariane Park were named as the most improved students.

"I am finally done writing one chapter of my life," senior graduate Denise Rae Samson told *Saipan Tribune*. "Now, here I go making another one."

The commencement ceremony's keynote speaker was Mariana Resort & Spa general manager Gloria Cavanagh, who told the graduates of her experience transitioning from high

school to college. She urged the students to find what makes them happy.

"Find what makes you happy. Happy short term like ice cream and chocolate chip cookies or long term like a family and a career," she said. "Have fun in college, meet new people, take a course outside of your norm, explore your vast surroundings, try different food, and experience different cultures."

Sometimes, she said, people discover that what truly makes them happy is something they would have never thought about.

She added, "Always remember that you win some and lose some. It is what you do when you lose that determines your character."

School president Rev. Ramiro H. Trinidad congratulated the students on closing the high school chapter of their lives and congratulated their parents on their success.

"It is OK to fail," he told the students. "You must think of life as a journey. Think of ways to make the journey more present for others as well as yourselves."

MBA'S CLASS OF 2014

■ Chelsea Marie B. Bartolo: Bob Jones University, Pre-med

■ Vanessa Rome B. Bartolo: Pensacola Christian College, Pharmacy

■ Michael Kevin Cataluna: Houston Community College, Petroleum Engineering

■ Alina Ishikawa: Northeastern University, Pharmacy

■ Yui Naomi M. Ito: DePaul University, Psychology

■ Daa Hyeon Jeung: Auckland University, Childhood Education

■ Doo Ho Kim: Northern Marianas College, Education

■ Chris Nhoel Obaldo: Walla Walla University, undeclared

■ Kanata Espiritu Omori:

University of Virginia, Communication

■ San Hyuk Park: Les Roches Jin Jiang College, International Hotel Management

■ Susanne Mariane Park: Ohio State University, Psychology

■ Primo Domingo Po: Kingsborough College, Business

■ Hoffmann Pun: Northern Marianas College, undeclared

■ Kristian Brian Reyes: Mounthood Community College, Engineering

■ Jacinia Tiche Richards: Northern Marianas College, undeclared

■ Denise Rae Samson: Lamar Institute of Technology, Nutrition

ACADEMIC RECOGNITION



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to Aica Aileen Dimaano for your Consistent Honor Award in 9th grade during the Grace Christian Academy Awards Day on May 27, 2014, at the school's auditorium. Greetings from Mom and Dad, and your BS group family.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to 5th grader Gianpaolo S. Borromeo for receiving six awards during the 2014 Grace Christian Academy Awards Ceremony! You've made your parents proud. Keep it up!

Mega Stars laments lukewarm support for \$600M Tinian plan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

"It wasn't what we expected," said Cario Hon, chief executive officer of Mega Stars Overseas Ltd., describing a "somewhat" lukewarm response from residents and government officials even as they have already spent \$40 million as part of a \$600 million plan not only for Tinian Dynasty

Hotel & Casino but also for a new hotel on Kastiyu Plateau and related facilities on Tinian.

He said it is a bit discouraging that Mega Stars as a foreign investor is not getting as much support from the community as they had hoped for.

Hon said that were it not for Mega Stars, Tinian Dynasty may have already been bankrupt or shut down by now and with it comes loss of revenues

for Tinian and the CNMI, and loss of hundreds of jobs. He reiterated that Mega Stars has already spent more than \$40 million to date to prevent Dynasty from going under.

"We just want people to be more reasonable...What we have done so far is a lot...We came here, we settled Dynasty's obligations, we paid back taxes, back wages. But we now want to ask, does Tinian people want

us or not? What do Tinian people want?" Hon asked.

Hon said Mega Stars, in negotiating a takeover of Dynasty, paid "\$2 million to \$3 million" in back wages.

He said since July 2013, Mega Stars has paid some \$1.1 million in business gross receipts tax through Dynasty, paid some \$349,000 in withholding tax, and paid some \$1.777 million in gaming tax.

The Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission gave Mega Stars up to five business days—or up to today—to re-

submit its application for a license to own and operate Tinian Dynasty. The commission "returned" the application for what it cited was a failure to execute the proper forms necessary as part of the application process.

Mega Stars is also part-owner of Marianas Stars Entertainment Inc., one of the two investor groups applying for a license to exclusively develop a minimum \$2 billion integrated casino resort on Saipan. The other applicant is Best Sunshine International Ltd.

The Lottery Commission is currently reviewing the Saipan casino license applications and will hold another meeting tomorrow afternoon on Capitol Hill.

Hon said the result of the application process on Saipan would have impact on their \$600-million plan, but just the same, he said they are pursuing their plans to expand and improve Tinian Dynasty as well as build a six-star hotel, 36-hole championship golf courses and a shopping mall in Kastiyu on Tinian.

Lazaro, Usi top MCS grade school promotion

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

"As we move forward to high school, there surely will be obstacles. But, every challenge is a chance for success."

These were the words of 8th grade Mount Carmel School student Maria Christine M. Lazaro, who was named class valedictorian Saturday during the school's promotion ceremony at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral.

A total of 32 grade school students were promoted in the weekend ceremony.

Lazaro thanked the school's teachers and staff and her parents for their diligence and unconditional support.

"Without my teachers I would not be where I am right now. You are like my second parents. Thank you for being patient with us. Thank you for dealing with out middle school drama," she said in her address.

"Thank you Mom and Dad for the sacrifices you made to allow me to have a good Catholic education. I hope I make you proud," she said. "Parents put up with so much and ask for so little."

Fellow graduate Monica Aira B. Usi received the second highest academic honor as the



MARIA CHRISTINE M. LAZARO
VALEDICTORIAN

salutarian.

"Thank you parents and family for being by our side even in the hardest of situations," she said in her speech. "Here at Mount Carmel every student receives a great education. We have learned to see with Christ's eyes."

Cassidy Chong Torres was recognized as 1st honor.

Saturday's ceremony also awarded graduates Jeff Melchor with the President Award, Maria Christine Lazaro with the Citizenship Award, and Erika Mendiola with the School Leadership Award.

Grade school graduate Ace Evangelista said that promoting to high school "feels good."

"My experience was fun

with all the memories we had. The school helped me see with Christ's eyes," he said.

Fellow graduate and Rota transferee Jonelle Toskas expressed similar sentiments.

"My experience was fun and I had a great experience at MCS. There was a lot of studying and hard work into getting here. I plan on continuing my education with high school at this school," Toskas told Saipan Tribune.

School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero congratulated the students and urged them see each other and the people around them with the wise, empathetic, and forgiving eyes of Christ.

"When you do that...you will do what He told us to do, 'Love each other as I loved you,'" he told the students.

"People will hurt you and you will hurt other people. We are all imperfect. We all make mistakes. That is why we need to see each other with the forgiving eyes of Christ," Guerrero added.

Superintendent of Catholic Schools Fr. Ryan P. Jimenez, board chair Attorney Joseph Tajeron, school vice principal Bobby Nelson Baldazo, and school counselor Tobed Smith were also present to congratulate the students.

Dayao, Ham top GCA elementary graduation

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Arvin S. Dayao and Jim Michael Ham were conferred with Grace Christian Academy's top honors during elementary commencement exercises held last Thursday at the Navy Hill school's auditorium.

Dayao also received awards such as a runner-up for the Eagle Award, highest GPA in the sixth-grade class, Consistent Principal's List, first place in Bible Trivia, and Perfect Attendance.

Ham also received awards for the Eagle Award, Consistent Principal's List, NJFL Regional Winner, and second place in Original Oratory, second place in Extemporaneous Speech, second place in duet acting for the Thespian Regional Winner, and Bible Trivia.

Three other students received awards as top honors: Tae Yong Kim, Martin Angelo Pangilinan, and Calia Mona Lieto.

In receiving his award, Dayao said his parents were the source of his inspiration.

"They have provided me a Christian education so I would be a God-fearing person," Dayao said.

He added that his family did

the "right thing, that is, building a foundation of faith, love and relationship with Christ Jesus."

In Ham's remarks, he quoted Confucius that "the journey of a thousand miles begins with but a single step."

"Our graduation ceremony today marks the start of that

Armela Ham.

GCA's board chair and senior Pastor Rev. Raymond Kinsella presented the graduates with their respective awards.

The commencement exercise, which had the theme "I Will Follow You," also featured a class slideshow, a presentation



ARVIN S. DAYAO
VALEDICTORIAN



JIM MICHAEL HAM
SALUTARIAN

single step. Whatever that single step may be, we could have never gotten here today without the help and support of our families, our teachers, friends, and most of all, our Almighty God," Ham said.

Dayao's parents are Crispin and Mirasol Dayao and Ham's parents are Jimmy and

to parents, and students singing their graduation song.

The other graduating students are Catheryne Arroyo, Ja Min Elliott, Jerielle Francisco, Eun Syu Hahn, Byung Kim, Esther Kim, Sejin Kim, Sung Hyun Kim, You Sun Lee, Hyunin Noh, William Sang, Robert Schorr, and Lanz Victoria.



MTEC THANKS MY WAVE CLUB ADVISERS

Marianas Tourism Education Council chair Vicky Benavente, seated third from right, and MTEC board members Larry Lee, Chris Lubi, Martin Duenas, and Jonas Barcinas hosted school advisers of MY WAVE (Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically) Clubs for an appreciation dinner on May 23, 2014, at Pacific Islands Club Saipan. Gifts from DFS Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Mariana Resort & Spa, and PIC Saipan were also awarded at the event. As of this school year, the Northern Marianas has 11 MY WAVE Clubs with more than 200 students actively involved in the islands' tourism and hospitality industry.

Comments sought on proposed projects for military relocation

»Public comments accepted through June 2

PEARL HARBOR—Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific announced Friday the 45-day public comment period, for the identification and eligibility of cultural resources associated with Utilities and Site Improvement Mass Grub and Grade, Phases 1 and 2 (PA Memo No. 1), will remain open through June 2, 2014 (Chamorro Standard Time).

The projects propose the first and second phases of required utilities and site improvements at Naval Base Guam, Telecommunications Site, should NBGTS be the selected alternative for construction of a main cantonment to support the Guam and

Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands Military Relocation.

Information regarding the proposed projects was available for public review and comments on April 16, 2014, for 45 days. The PA Memos may be found on the NAVFAC Pacific Cultural Information website at <http://go.usa.gov/kZWG>. (The URL is case sensitive).

Those without Internet access may obtain a hard copy of the PA Memos from the Guam Historic Resources Division, located at 490 Chalan Palasyo, Agana Heights, 96910 (in the Department of Parks and Recreation Office). (USN)

Business

Obama's boldest move on carbon comes with perils

WASHINGTON (AP)—The new pollution rule the Obama administration announces Monday will be a cornerstone of President Barack Obama's environmental legacy and arguably the most significant U.S. environmental regulation in decades.

But it's not one the White House wanted.

As with other issues, the regulation to limit the pollution blamed for global warming from power plants is a compromise for Obama, who again finds himself caught between his aspirations and what is politically and legally possible.

It will provoke a messy and drawn-out fight with states and companies that produce electricity, and may not be settled until the eve of the next presidential election in 2016, or beyond.

"It's going to be like eating spaghetti with a spoon. It can be done, but it's going to be messy and slow," said Michael Gerard, director of the Center for Climate Change Law at Columbia University.

At the crux of the problem is Obama's use of a 1970 law that



This May 5, 2014 file photo shows a pickup truck driving down a road of the Homer City Generating Station in Homer City, Pa.

was not intended to regulate the gases blamed for global warming. Obama was forced to rely on the Clean Air Act after he tried and failed to get Congress to pass a new law during his first term. When the Republicans took over the House, the goal became impossible.

The new rule, as the president described it in a news conference in 2010, is another way of "skinning the cat" on climate change.

"For anybody who cares about this issue, this is it," Heather Zichal, Obama's for-

mer energy and climate adviser, said in an interview with The Associated Press. "This is all the president has in his toolbox."

The rule will tap executive powers to tackle the single largest source of the pollution blamed for heating the planet: carbon dioxide emitted from power plants. They produce about 40 percent of the electricity in the nation and about one-third of the carbon pollution that makes the U.S. the second largest emitter of greenhouse gases.

US law prods states to revisit health care rules

CONCORD, N.H. (AP)—Prompted by the health care overhaul law, several states are updating their rules for insurance networks to better reflect who is covered and how people shop for and use their benefits.

Laws governing health insurance vary, but states generally try to ensure that health plans give residents reasonable access to a sufficient number of primary care and specialty physicians, said Tyler Brannen, a health policy analyst for the state of New Hampshire. Yet that aim hasn't kept up with changes in how and where people access health care, he added.

For example, nurse practitioners and physician's assistants now provide a significant share of primary care, and many consumers head to urgent care clinics

instead of scheduling office visits, he said. And the current focus on hospitals ignores the reality that virtually every service provided during a short-term hospital stay is now available in other settings, including ambulatory surgical centers.

"There's going to be an emphasis on types of services, versus types of providers," he said of the new standards being put in place.

New Hampshire recently began working to revise its 2001 rules, and while its first step in that direction came after a consumer challenged them under the Affordable Care Act, Brannen said he realized years ago that the standards were outdated. Washington state just implemented new regulations, and discussions are underway in several others, including Arkan-

sas, Minnesota and California.

Also changing is how many people have insurance and who makes up that group, with previously uninsured residents gaining coverage through the health overhaul law and the expansion of Medicaid, which in New Hampshire will involve using federal money to buy private health coverage.

"We're now talking about people with different health care needs, and different abilities to travel to providers," Brannen said.

Similar discussions are playing out elsewhere, said John Weis of Quest Analytics, a Wisconsin company that provides software and consulting services for health plans, employers and government agencies seeking to measure network adequacy.

Coffee rust reaches new heights in Central America

FRAIJANES, Guatemala (AP)—For years, Hernan Argueta's small plot of coffee plants seemed immune to the fungus spreading elsewhere in Central America. The airborne disease that strikes coffee plants, flecking their leaves with spots and causing them to wither and fall off, failed to do much damage in the cooler elevations of Guatemala's mountains.

Then, the weather changed.

Temperatures warmed in the highlands and the yellow-orange spots spread to Argueta's plants. Since the warming trend was noted in 2012, the 46-year-old farmer said his family went from gathering

a dozen 100-pound (45-kilogram) sacks of coffee beans each month to just five.

Now, Argueta is among the region's thousands of coffee farmers fighting the fungus called "coffee rust" in hopes they'll continue to supply the smooth-flavored, aromatic Arabica beans enjoyed by coffee lovers around the world. But with no cure for the fungus, and climate conditions expected to encourage its spread, they are bracing for a long, hard battle to survive.

Argueta, like many farmers, is replacing his old trees with new coffee plants that better resist the rust, and cutting back

existing trees in the hope they'll spring new foliage. It will be two to three years, however before the new plants produce the bright red cherries that hold the valuable beans. Argueta has had to seek out construction jobs to get by. "Now we have had to find other lines of work," he said.

Coffee rust first hit Central America in the 1970s. For decades, coffee growers simply coped with the blight and lower yields. But as rust spread to the highlands, the problem demanded action. Last year, Guatemala declared a national emergency, with officials estimating rust had affected 70 percent of the nation's crop.

Nation

US soldier freed from captivity in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON (AP)—The only American soldier held prisoner in Afghanistan has been freed by the Taliban in exchange for the release of five Afghan detainees from the U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Obama administration officials said Saturday.

Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl was handed over to U.S. special operations forces by the Taliban Saturday evening, local time, in an area of eastern Afghanistan, near the Pakistani border, officials said. In a statement, the Taliban said Bergdahl was handed over on the outskirts of Khost province.

Officials said the exchange was not violent and the 28-year-old Bergdahl was in good condition and able to walk.

"While Bowe was gone, he was never forgotten," Presi-

dent Barack Obama said in a statement from the White House Rose Garden, where he was joined by Bergdahl's parents. "The United States of America does not ever leave our men and women in uniform behind."

Bergdahl's handover followed indirect negotiations between the U.S. and the Taliban, with the government of Qatar serving as the go-between. Qatar is taking custody of the five Afghan detainees who were held at Guantanamo.

Several dozen U.S. special operations forces, backed by multiple helicopters and surveillance aircraft, flew into Afghanistan by helicopter and made the transfer with the approximately 18 Taliban members. Officials said the commandos were on the ground for a short time before lifting off with Bergdahl.

According to a senior de-

fense official, once Bergdahl climbed onto the noisy helicopter, he took a pen and wrote on a paper plate, "SF?"—asking the troops if they were special operations forces.

They shouted back at him over the roar of the rotors: "Yes, we've been looking for you for a long time."

Then, according to the official, Bergdahl broke down.

Bergdahl, of Hailey, Idaho, is believed to have been held by the Haqqani network since June 30, 2009. Haqqani operates in the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region and has been one of the deadliest threats to U.S. troops in the war.

The network, which the State Department designated as a foreign terrorist organization in 2012, claims allegiance to the Afghan Taliban, yet operates with some degree of autonomy.

American suicide bomber grew up in Central Florida

VERO BEACH, Fla. (AP)—The American man who launched a suicide bombing against Syrian government troops grew up in Central Florida and attended several colleges in the state before dropping out and moving abroad.

U.S. officials identified the bomber as Moner Mohammad Abu-Salha of Florida but have said little else. Records show a person with that name lived with his family in a two-story stucco home in a gated community plunked among the orange groves on the edge of Vero Beach, the historic winter training ground for the Dodgers baseball team.

Abu-Salha was 22, according to records from one of the colleges.

Cynthia Heinz, a former member of the neighborhood homeowners association in

Vero Beach, said the family had moved twice within the neighborhood since they lost their home to foreclosure a few years back. Before the family moved, they lived around the corner from Heinz. Records list the family as having previously lived in West Palm Beach and Fort Pierce.

"I used to see the mom walking around. She would accompany her youngest son when he went out to play," she said. "She was always very sweet"

Heinz told The Associated Press she rarely saw Moner Abu-Salha or his older brother, who were already teenagers by then.

She said Michelle Abu-Salha, the mother who dressed conservatively in a traditional Hijab over her hair, was always friendly, as was her teenage daughter, who went to

school with Heinz's son. Heinz said she had less contact with Abu-Salha's father.

A youth league statistics website listed Moner Abu-Salha as playing for the Indian River Warriors basketball team in 2007.

Abu-Salha's former Vero Beach neighbor Bill Miller told The Washington Post (<http://wapo.st/1mQc6qs>) his son used to play basketball with Abu-Salha, and that Abu-Salha was once suspended from school for fighting after some boys made fun of his mother's clothing.

Another neighbor, John Knudsen, told WPTV in West Palm Beach that the family was "super nice" to his daughter, who used to cut their lawn.

"I still can't believe it," Knudsen said. "This whole thing is crazy."



ACROSS THE NATION

Official: 6 climbers likely died in mountain fall

SEATTLE (AP)—Six climbers on Mount Rainier likely perished in a fall after helicopters detected pings from avalanche beacons and spotted climbing gear thousands of feet below the group's last known location, national park officials said Saturday. Searchers believe the group fell 3,300 feet from their last known whereabouts of 12,800 feet on Wednesday, park spokeswoman Patricia Wold said in a statement. The helicopter crew spotted camping and climbing gear in the avalanche-prone area, park Ranger Fawn Bauer told The Associated Press. "There's not a viable chance of survival," Bauer said. Air and ground searches were suspended late Saturday afternoon. The danger of falling rock and ice in the area where searchers picked up the pings prevents a ground recovery effort, Wold said.

Officials: 7 aboard NJ-bound plane died in crash

BEDFORD, Mass. (AP)—Authorities say all

seven people aboard a private plane were killed when it crashed in a Massachusetts air field and erupted into fire. They say the Gulfstream IV aircraft was leaving Hanscom Field in Bedford when it crashed and caught fire about 9:40 p.m. Saturday. The plane was headed to Atlantic City International Airport in New Jersey. The names of the victims were not immediately released. And authorities have not said what they think caused the crash. They said the National Transportation Safety Board will investigate.

Girl dies after rescue from Boulder area creek

Authorities say a girl has died after the vehicle she was in careened into a Boulder area creek following a collision blamed on a bear. The Boulder County Sheriff's office says the girl was carried away by the current following the crash, which was reported at 4:46 p.m. Saturday in Boulder Canyon. The Daily Camera reported that the girl was 13 and riding with her father and sister. (AP)

Asia

Hagel, China spar over territorial disputes

SINGAPORE (AP)—China's aggressive moves to claim jurisdiction over land and sky in the Asia-Pacific risk undermining peace and security in the region and beyond, U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said Saturday. Beijing scoffed at the "groundless" charges.

Hagel told an international security conference that the United States "will not look the other way" when China and others try to restrict navigation or ignore international rules and standards.

China's territorial claims in the South China Sea are destabilizing the region, he said, adding that Beijing's failure to resolve such disputes threatens East Asia's long-term progress.

A Chinese general took issue with Hagel's comments, saying that "although I do think that those criticisms are groundless, I do appreciate your candor."

Lt. Gen. Wang Guanzhong, deputy chief of the General Staff, told Hagel during a brief meeting after the defense secretary's speech, "You were very candid this morning and, to be frank, more than our expectation."

Reporters were taken from the meeting room before Hagel responded. But Pentagon press secretary Rear Adm. John Kirby said Hagel told Wang that all regional disputes should be solved through diplomacy, and Hagel encouraged China to foster dialogue with neighboring nations.

As he did in 2013, Hagel used his appearance at the Shangri-La conference to single out China for cyberspying against the U.S. While this has been a persistent complaint by the U.S., it was less than two weeks after the Obama administration charged five Chinese military officers with hacking into American companies to steal trade secrets.

The Chinese, in response, suspended participation in a U.S.-China Cyber Working Group, and released a report that said the U.S. is conducting unscrupulous cyberespionage and that China is a major target.

Noting the suspension, Hagel said the U.S. will continue to raise cyberissues with the Chinese "because dialogue is essential for re-



Hagel

ducing the risk of miscalculation and escalation in cyberspace."

In comments aimed directly at China, Hagel said the U.S. opposes any country's use of intimidation or threat of force to assert territorial claims.

"All nations of the region, including China, have a choice: to unite, and recommit to a stable regional order, or, to walk away from that commitment and risk the peace and security that has benefited millions of people throughout the Asia-Pacific, and billions of people around the world," he said.

Thai army deploys against protesters

BANGKOK (AP)—Shouting "Freedom!" and "Democracy," hundreds of demonstrators turned up Sunday near a major mall in downtown Bangkok to denounce the country's May 22 coup despite a lockdown by soldiers of most of the city's major intersections.

The country's new military rulers had deployed thousands of troops and police officers to several key locations across the capital to prevent planned rallies. But the protesters showed up at a site that lacked any mass army presence, gathering near the Terminal 21 shopping mall, chanting and holding signs saying "Soldier get out" and "No Coup."

A crowd surrounded two plainclothes police officers

who tried to detain one of the protesters. But after several minutes of shouting, the protester was released.

The army overthrew the nation's elected government late last month, claiming it had to restore order after seven months of demonstrations that had triggered sporadic violence and left the civil administration virtually powerless.

Since the coup, pro-democracy protesters have come out on the streets nearly every day, marching through Bangkok and scuffling with soldiers. No injuries have been reported, but the junta has warned them repeatedly to stop and there are rising fears of violence if the military employs force.

On Sunday, authorities closed

several subway and elevated train stations where protests might materialize, advising commuters that services had been suspended temporarily "for your safety due to a situation outside."

Sunday's protests were organized by veteran social activist Sombat Boonngam-anong, who is a member of the grassroots "Red Shirts" movement, which had backed the now-ousted government and warned it would take action if there was a coup.

The army, however, has effectively silenced the movement's top leaders, detaining them and forcing them to sign agreements promising they would no longer take part in activities that could destabilize the nation.

Zhaoyuan is in Shandong province, a traditional hotbed for religious cults. The region gave birth to the violent anti-Christian Boxer movement that laid siege to Western interests in Beijing and elsewhere during the waning years of the Qing dynasty in 1900.

India arrests 3rd suspect in gang rape of 2 teens

LUCKNOW, India (AP)—Police arrested a third suspect Saturday in the gang rape and slaying of two teenage cousins found hanging from a tree in northern India, as a top state official said he was recommending a federal investigation into a case that

has triggered national outrage. The three suspects detained in the attack in Uttar Pradesh state are cousins in their 20s from an extended family, and they face murder and rape charges, crimes punishable by the death penalty, said police officer N. Malik. Two other suspects from the same village are also being sought, he said. Facing growing criticism for a series of rapes, authorities in Uttar Pradesh, which has a long-standing reputation for lawlessness, also arrested two police officers and fired two others Friday for failing to investigate when the father of one of the teenagers reported the girls missing earlier in the week.

World

Some Kiev barricades come down; protesters balky

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—Demonstrators on the main downtown avenue of Ukraine's capital set piles of tires ablaze on Saturday to protest authorities' call to end the encampment that began six months ago. A few hundred meters away, workers in hard hats cleared debris from torn-down barricades.

The contrasting scenes on Kreshchatik Street in Kiev highlighted just one of the many uncertainties facing Ukraine. Even after the May 25 election for a president to replace the interim leader who took power amid chaos in February, many Ukrainians remain deeply suspicious of the government, and several hundred are still holding out at a vast protest camp.

Three months of protests during the winter eventually drove pro-Russia president Viktor Yanukovich to flee the country. But the extensive protest tent camp and the barricades of wooden pallets, tires and trash that protected the camp remained even after interim president Oleksandr Turchynov was appointed.

The holdouts say they want to keep up the encampment until the new government and president-elect Petro Poroshenko

can carry out important reforms in a country long riddled by corruption.

"Personally, I have no plans to leave. They need to show the people that the new laws are working—they're where they are thanks to us," said demonstrator Anna Chaikivska, from the Rivna region in western Ukraine.

Newly-elected Kiev mayor Vitali Klitschko, the former world heavyweight boxing champion, has called on the demonstrators to fold up their tents and go home. But aside from removing some of the barricades, authorities have taken little action.

Russia has repeatedly criticized the Ukrainian authorities for failing to clear out the encampment and free buildings occupied by demonstrators, which was among the terms stated in an agreement reached between Russia, Ukraine, the United States and the European Union in April aimed at cooling tensions in Ukraine's crisis.

In Ukraine's east, where separatists have declared two provinces independent and are fighting government forces, many are deeply suspicious of the Kiev demonstrations and the new government they have

propelled to power.

The conflict between government forces and the insurgents in the east escalated markedly in the last week, including rebels' attempt to seize the airport in the city of Donetsk on Monday and the shooting down of a Ukrainian military helicopter on Thursday. Twelve people, including a general, died in that incident.

On Saturday, Russia's Foreign Ministry criticized a suggestion by an official from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe that it could withdraw its observer mission from Ukraine because of safety concerns, as shooting between government troops and pro-Russian rebels continued in the region.

The international monitoring body says it lost contact on Thursday with a group of five monitors in separatist eastern Ukraine. Another four-member team has been held by eastern rebels since Monday.

Wolfgang Ischinger, the OSCE's negotiator on national dialogue in Ukraine, told German broadcaster ZDF this week that the monitor mission might have to withdraw if the organization fears for its employees' lives.

Nigeria's leader vows to bring girls home

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP)—Nigeria's leader vowed on Thursday to "do everything possible to bring our daughters home," referring to the mass abduction of more than 300 schoolgirls, and said that the Islamic extremists who kidnapped them threaten the country's democratic gains.

"It is a sad fact that as I address you today, all the gains of the past 15 years of democratic governance in our country are threatened by the presence of international terrorism on our shores," President Goodluck Jonathan said in a speech marking Nigeria's transformation from decades of military

dictatorship. He also blamed the Islamic uprising on "extremist foreign elements" and offered amnesty to those who renounce violence.

He said he has instructed security forces "to launch a full-scale operation to put an end to the impunity of terrorists on our soil" but gave no details, not of what is being done to rescue the girls who the military claimed this week it has located. The military says it fears that using force to rescue them could instead get them killed. Jonathan has ruled out swapping the girls, who were kidnapped from a school in the town of Chibok on April 15,

for detained insurgents.

Boko Haram started off as a moderate religious sect nicknamed after the shouted refrain of its leader - "Western education is sinful"—who preached that Western influences have corrupted Nigerian society and caused the massive graft that impoverishes the nation and keeps people in the northeast among the poorest of the poor.

Jonathan has promised to address the poverty that helps fuel the uprising - but only once the insurgency is put down. The World Bank says two-thirds of 170 million Nigerians struggle in poverty in Africa's biggest oil producer.

Turkish police crack down on protesters

ISTANBUL (AP)—Police used tear gas and water cannon on Saturday to push back crowds of protesters who defied a warning by Turkey's prime minister and gathered in Istanbul and Ankara on the anniversary of last year's nationwide anti-government demonstrations.

Riot police fired tear gas on hundreds of protesters on a main pedestrian street leading to Istanbul's main square, Taksim, following a stand-off with police. Clashes also erupted in the capital Ankara, where police used water cannons against a group of stone-throwing protesters.

Dogan new agency video footage showed police, some in plain clothes, detaining several people in the two cities. Abdullahi Boga, of the Human Rights Association, told The Associated Press at least 83 people were detained and 14 people were injured in Istanbul alone.

Large numbers of police blocked access to Taksim, and news reports earlier said authorities planned to deploy some 25,000 police officers and up to 50 anti-riot water cannon vehicles around the city to thwart the demonstrations. Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned ac-

tivists to keep away from the square, saying authorities were under strict orders to prevent protests.

"I am calling on my people: don't fall for this trap. This is not an innocent environmental action," Erdogan said.

In late May and June last year, hundreds of thousands of Turks took to the streets denouncing Erdogan's increasingly autocratic leadership and demanding more democratic freedoms. The protests were sparked by opposition to government plans to uproot trees at Taksim Square's Gezi Park and build a shopping center.

ASIAN BRIEFS

6 arrested in China killing blamed on cult members

BEIJING (AP)—Six members of a religious cult have been arrested over the beating death of a woman at a McDonald's restaurant in eastern China, police said Saturday. The accused, including four members of the same family, allegedly attacked the woman in the city of Zhaoyuan on Wednesday evening after she refused to tell them her phone number. Zhaoyuan police said on their microblog that the six belonged to a group calling itself the "All-powerful spirit" and had been collecting numbers in an effort to recruit new members.

Life & Style

Man who accosted Pitt pleads no contest

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A man who accosted Brad Pitt on a red carpet pleaded no contest to battery Friday and was ordered to stay away from the actor and Hollywood red carpet events.

Vitalii Sediuk entered the plea during a court appearance Friday afternoon, two days after he leaped from a fan area and made contact with Pitt at the “Maleficent” premiere. He was sentenced to three years of probation and attend a year’s worth of psychological counseling.

Sediuk, 25, was also ordered to stay away from Pitt’s partner Angelina Jolie and stay 500 yards away from the Hollywood block where movie premieres and the Academy Awards are hosted. He was also ordered to stay away from LA Live, a downtown entertainment complex where Sediuk crashed the Grammy Awards in 2013.

He was charged earlier Friday with four misdemeanors, including assault and two counts governing conduct at sporting and entertainment events. He

also pleaded no contest to unlawful activity at a sporting or entertainment event and the remaining counts were dropped.

Sediuk is a former journalist for the Ukrainian television station 1+1, which fired him roughly three weeks ago.

Sediuk, who was jailed Wednesday night, appeared in court in the sport coat and jeans he wore to the “Maleficent” premiere, which stars Jolie. He smiled at times during the hearing and politely answered questions from a judge. His hands remained cuffed for the hearing, and the right sleeve of his sport coat was ripped.

Sediuk was released from custody later Friday. His attorney Anthony Willoughby said he expected the stay-away orders against his client to be lifted after a year if his client behaves.

Sediuk’s antics have repeatedly brought him too close for comfort to Hollywood’s elite. In 2011, Sediuk presented Madonna with a bouquet of hydrangeas



Vitalii Sediuk, from Ukraine, appears in Los Angeles Superior Court Friday, May 30, 2014, in Los Angeles. **AP**

at the 2011 Venice Film Festival, prompting the singer to express her disgust for the flowers. The following year, he attempted to kiss Smith on the mouth on a red carpet in Moscow, prompting a slap from the actor.

In 2013 he grabbed a microphone before Adele accepted a Grammy Award, which led to Sediuk’s arrest. He later pleaded

no contest to trespassing and earned him a three-year probation sentence.

He hugged Bradley Cooper’s crotch earlier this year at the Screen Actors Guild Awards and streaked down a runway in a G-string at a show during February’s Fashion Week in New York City. No charges were filed after either incident.

Arsenio Hall Show’ canceled after 1 season

LOS ANGELES (AP)—“The Arsenio Hall Show” has been canceled because of low ratings, ending Hall’s late-night comeback bid after a single season.

Hall’s bid to recreate the success he enjoyed 20 years ago failed to find a big enough audience in the ever-crowded TV market.

CBS Television Production had previously announced Hall’s syndicated show would be back for a second season, but faced the prospect of stations moving it to lesser time slots as ratings fell.

In a statement, Hall said he

knew launching the show would be a challenge.

“I’m gratified for the year we’ve had and proud of the show we created,” the actor and comedian added.

The show is in reruns and won’t resume production, a show spokesman said. The last original episode aired May 21.

When Hall began his original series in 1989, he was seen as the cool alternative to Johnny Carson and “The Tonight Show” on NBC. Guests including sax playing-presidential candidate Bill Clinton helped push Hall into the spotlight.

Hillary Clinton makes brief appearance at BookExpo

NEW YORK (AP)—Hillary Rodham Clinton made a brief, private appearance Friday at publishing’s annual national convention, BookExpo America, and offered booksellers a few details about her upcoming memoir, “Hard Choices.”

Clinton’s publisher, Simon & Schuster, told The Associated Press that the former secretary of state and possible presidential candidate met in the late morning with some 100 American and international booksellers

for about 45 minutes. The event was not open to the press and Clinton departed without visiting the floor of the Jacob K. Javits Center.

Clinton has said that her book, coming out June 10, will not be a Washington “soap opera” and has indicated for a long time that she will focus on her work as secretary of state and not on her bitter 2008 primary battle against Barack Obama. But “Hard Choices” apparently will at least refer to that time.

Psy’s ‘Gangnam Style’ hits 2 billion YouTube views

NEW YORK (AP)—It’s 2 billion and counting for Psy and his irrepressible “Gangnam Style.”

The South Korean pop star’s surprise hit has become the first YouTube video to surpass 2 billion views, crossing the mark around shortly before midnight EDT Friday.

The unlikely viral star holds the record for most overall views and most views in a day

with 38 million for his “Gangnam Style” followup “Gentleman.”

No other video comes close to “Gangnam” on the streaming service’s list of top videos. Justin Bieber’s “Baby” is the only other billion-plus video at 1.04 billion views. Cute kid video “Charlie bit my finger—again!” is a distant third with 711 million views.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Banks to lead new daytime talk show

NEW YORK (AP)—Tyra Banks will lead a new television show with a panel of experts talking about fashion, entertainment and other lifestyle topics starting next year. Disney-ABC Domestic Television said Friday it would distribute the daytime show to television stations across the country. It will be similar to “The View” or “The Talk” with a group of hosts, and Banks will be executive producer of the show along with being on the air. Other panelists were not named on Friday. The popular model is also the creator of the competition show “America’s Next Top Model,” which currently airs in 186 countries. The company said the show, which doesn’t have a name yet, will “motivate people to improve and enhance their lives by providing cutting edge guidance.”

Singer Ray J arrested at Beverly Hills hotel

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Police arrested singer Ray J at a Beverly Hills hotel after they say he became belligerent with staff, kicked out a patrol car window and spit at an officer. A statement from the Beverly Hills Police Department says officers came to the hotel Friday evening to investigate a report that the 33-year-old singer had inappropriately touched a woman at the bar. Officers found the contact was incidental, and the singer agreed to leave. But police say Ray J, whose legal name is William Ray Norwood, then refused to leave, became unruly and used his feet to shatter a patrol car window after being taken into custody. A representative for Ray J declined to comment about the arrest.

According to booksellers who attended, Clinton said that while writing the book she recalled how foreign officials marveled that she agreed to be in Obama’s administration after such a disappointing campaign. She specifi-

cally cited one of her first trips abroad, to Indonesia in 2009.

Oren Teicher, chief executive of the American Booksellers Association, said Clinton offered a simple explanation for her decision to accept Obama’s offer.

Wife has much to consider before agreeing to surrogacy

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am a young, recently married woman. My husband and I are about at the point where we’re thinking of having kids. My brother married a close friend of mine soon after my wedding, and my sister-in-law has a medical condition that may prevent her from having children.

I am very close to my brother and his wife, and I can see the writing on the wall. She has mentioned surrogacy once in passing, as a possible alternative if she can’t have kids. If I am asked to be the surrogate, what advice do you have? I’d be more than willing to consider it, but only



Dear Abby

after my husband and I have had our own children.

If I do it, would it be selfish of me to expect some compensation for my time and the toll it will take on my body? I want to be ready if and when I’m

asked. What would be the best way to explain my reasoning to her?—**BACKUP MOM IN THE NORTHWEST**

DEAR BACKUP: You may be jumping the gun, because you do not yet know how your body will tolerate a pregnancy. Not all women have easy pregnancies, and if you’re one of them, you may be less willing to be a surrogate. As to monetary compensation for wear and tear, that’s a question you should ask a lawyer because compensation may not be allowed in the state in which you reside.

You, together with your brother and sister-in-law, should also discuss with a mental health professional the emotional issues that may arise—such as every-

one’s expectations about what will happen when the baby arrives, what might happen if there is a death, a divorce, a move, and what your role would be—whether you will be the birth mother or a legal aunt, etc. All of this should be clarified if your sister-in-law asks you to be her surrogate.

DEAR ABBY: I recently retired for the second time. At 70, I applied for a job online, was interviewed by a company and hired. I could hardly believe it. Three years later, I was having a medical problem, so I thought it best to retire again if I couldn’t do the work I was hired to do.

After a month of rest I feel fine now. My husband thinks I was overworked. I want to get another job. Abby, why do

I feel the need to still work? Most of my friends tell me to enjoy life, sit back and relax, but my work defined me and I loved it. Shouldn’t I try working again if my health continues to improve?—**NOSE TO THE GRINDSTONE IN GEORGIA**

DEAR NOSE TO THE GRINDSTONE: Not everyone is happy in retirement. Some people need the routine of work and the stimulation of being around other people. Also, not everyone ages at the same rate.

However, it’s important to listen to your body and pace yourself. There’s a saying, “You can fool Mother Nature, but you can’t fool Father Time.” If your last job drained you to the point of illness, choose something that is less taxing (either full-time or part-time). You’ll en-

joy your life and last longer if you do.

DEAR ABBY: I am a Brit, now living in the U.S. When, upon departing, someone says, “Have a good one!” what is the correct response?—**PUZZLED IN PENNSYLVANIA**

DEAR PUZZLED: Some people respond, “Thanks, the same to you.” Others have been known to say, “Thanks, I’m already having one!”

The important thing is to always say “thank you.”

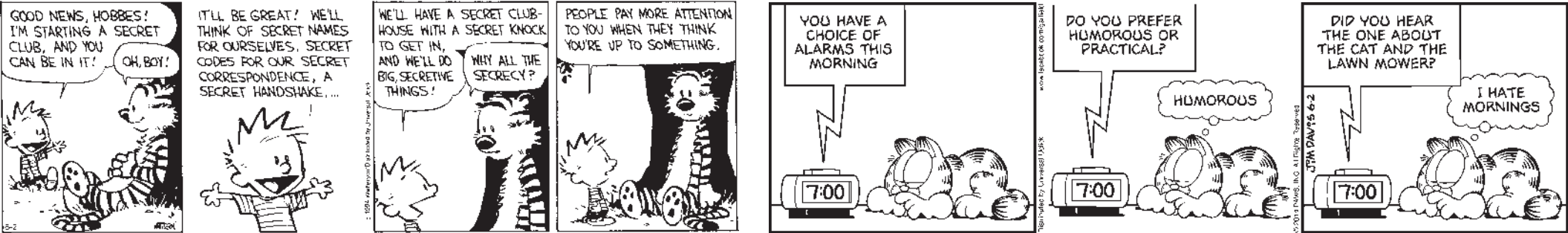
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

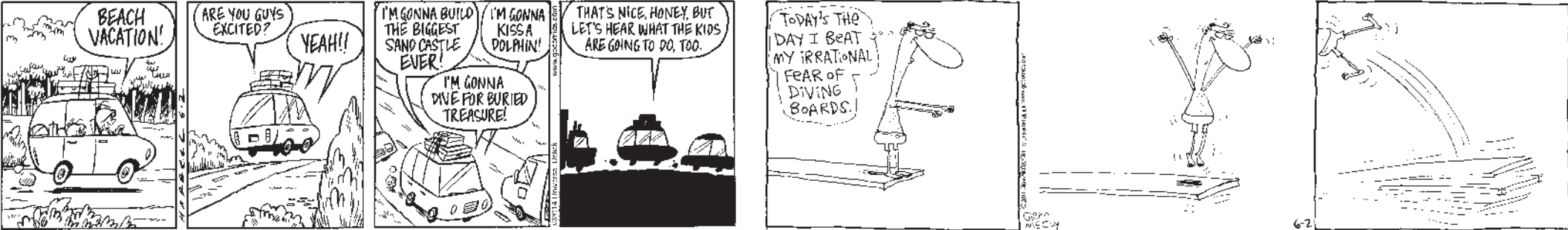
By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Parisian pals
5 Lubricate
8 Underwater breather
12 Aversion
14 Europe's neighbor
15 Trojan War hero
16 Crow's nest cry
17 Privy
18 Packed away
20 "Carmen" composer
23 Celebrity
24 Kings, in Cannes
25 Reach
28 Raggedy
29 Very popular, on YouTube
30 Historic time
32 River in Hades
34 Journey
35 Old
36 Tremor
37 Troubadour's song
40 Mean dog
41 Pedestal occupant
42 Reason for liniment

DOWN

1 Oklahoma city
2 Karaoke prop, for short
3 Something (Suff.)
4 Julia of "10 Things I Hate About You"
5 Norway's capital
6 Resident (Suff.)
7 What < implies
8 Aplenty
9 —
10 Queue
11 Alan or Cheryl
13 Oodles
19 Peacock's pride
20 Bikini half
21 New Rochelle college
22 Galvanizing metal
23 Seafood entree
25 Large terrier
26 Designer Wang
27 Estrada of "CHiPs"
29 Bright star in Lyra
31 Gorilla
33 Astronomer
34 Stimulant
36 Chocolate powder name, once
37 Bob's frequent co-star
38 Hebrew month
39 More than like
40 Chinese dynasty
43 URL ending
44 Zsa Zsa's sister
45 Congeal
46 "No seats" sign

Solution time: 27 mins.

Friday's answer 6-2

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Justin Long, 36; Zachary Quinto, 37; Dana Carvey, 59; Dennis Haysbert, 60.

Happy Birthday: Make this year count. Put discipline and education at the top of your list. Your enthusiasm, coupled with talent and tenacity, will lead to interesting prospects. Communicate from the heart, but don't give in to pressure or let pride stand between you and your goals. If you need help, ask, and if asked, be generous. Your numbers are 5, 7, 18, 23, 27, 35, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll have plenty going on and lots of competition. Choose your words carefully and prepare to compromise. Embrace a challenge with optimism and a winning attitude. Say less, do more and you will come out on top. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): It will be difficult to hide your feelings. Gauge your time carefully in order to reach your goals. Size up your situation and make a decision. Pondering over what to do will waste valuable time. Concentrate on finishing what you start. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Show how diverse and adaptable you are when faced with a challenge, adversity or an emotional issue. Rethink your strategy and consider your motives. Make choices based on your needs, not what someone else wants. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Making unnecessary changes will end up holding you back. Concentrate on what's most important and doing whatever job you are given properly. Love is in the stars. Follow your intuition

and express your feelings wholeheartedly. An unexpected change will catch you off-guard. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Emotions will be close to the surface. Express how you feel and address issues that cause uncertainty. In the end you will discover that you are in a much better position than you anticipated. Refuse to let a personal matter affect your productivity. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Offer suggestions and let past experience be your guide. Doing too much for too little will lead to dissatisfaction. A change in your personal situation will leave you questioning legal matters. You will gain popularity if you participate in work-related events. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take part in fundraising events that will help improve your environment. Your ability to explain situations and suggest solutions will attract attention and raise your profile. Travel plans will bring about a personal attitude change. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Keep your personal thoughts and business a secret. Put more emphasis on family, background and things you have done in the past that can help you get ahead now. Dig up old ideas and update your goals. A change will inspire you. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Face whatever comes your way. A confident attitude will grab attention and earn the support of someone who is able to contribute to your success. A change at home will give you a renewed sense of accomplishment and a desire to explore new avenues. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll be torn among the past, present and future. Let go of whatever isn't working for you and make room for the ideas, friendships and goals that have potential to bring you renewed faith, strength and courage. Don't back down; forge ahead. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Make decisions and get moving in a positive direction. Take initiative, be responsible and give your all to the goals you set. You can be successful if you are willing to make the changes required in order to reach your destination. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Get serious about your current state of financial, legal, medical or emotional affairs. Procrastination will lead to setbacks. Don't labor over past mistakes—it's what you do today that counts. Love is on the rise. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are intelligent, expressive and compassionate. You are tactical and gallant.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](https://twitter.com/eugenialast).

SUDOKU Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★ 6/02

		8		3	2			5
	6							7
9		3		5	6			1
		2			8	5		
	7						6	
		4	1			8		
	5		9	1		7	2	
1								3
4			2	7		1		

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

7	2	1	4	9	5	3	6	8
4	8	6	3	2	1	5	7	9
3	5	9	7	6	8	1	2	4
1	6	7	8	3	9	4	5	2
2	3	4	6	5	7	8	9	1
5	9	8	1	4	2	7	3	6
9	7	5	2	1	4	6	8	3
8	1	3	9	7	6	2	4	5
6	4	2	5	8	3	9	1	7

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

18TH-CENTURY CANXONS Solution: 9 letters

R V W E S A K E R S B O N K B
E E A L R I N G E F I R S T A
Z L D G O E Z N O R B I F D R
T O D N L A Y A C A L I B E R
I C I A A A D R R I R O F D E
W I N S R M V I S E R D A A L
O T G T O C M A N E T N C O E
H Y U R H A B O N G N A E L C
R B T A E S A H C T I H W H R
E A R G U N P O W D E R A T O
R G L A N G E L S L B M S L F
E F I L L E T S Z A B A L L N
S K C E N A E Z S E C O N D I
U I R O N I U E R I G N I T E
F R C Y E M A L F L I O C E R

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Spurs beat Thunder in OT, advance to NBA Finals



OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—San Antonio fought off Father Time, the league MVP and an injury to its best player to return to the NBA Finals.

The Spurs beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 112-107 in overtime Saturday night in Game 6 of the Western Conference finals to set up a rematch with the Miami Heat.

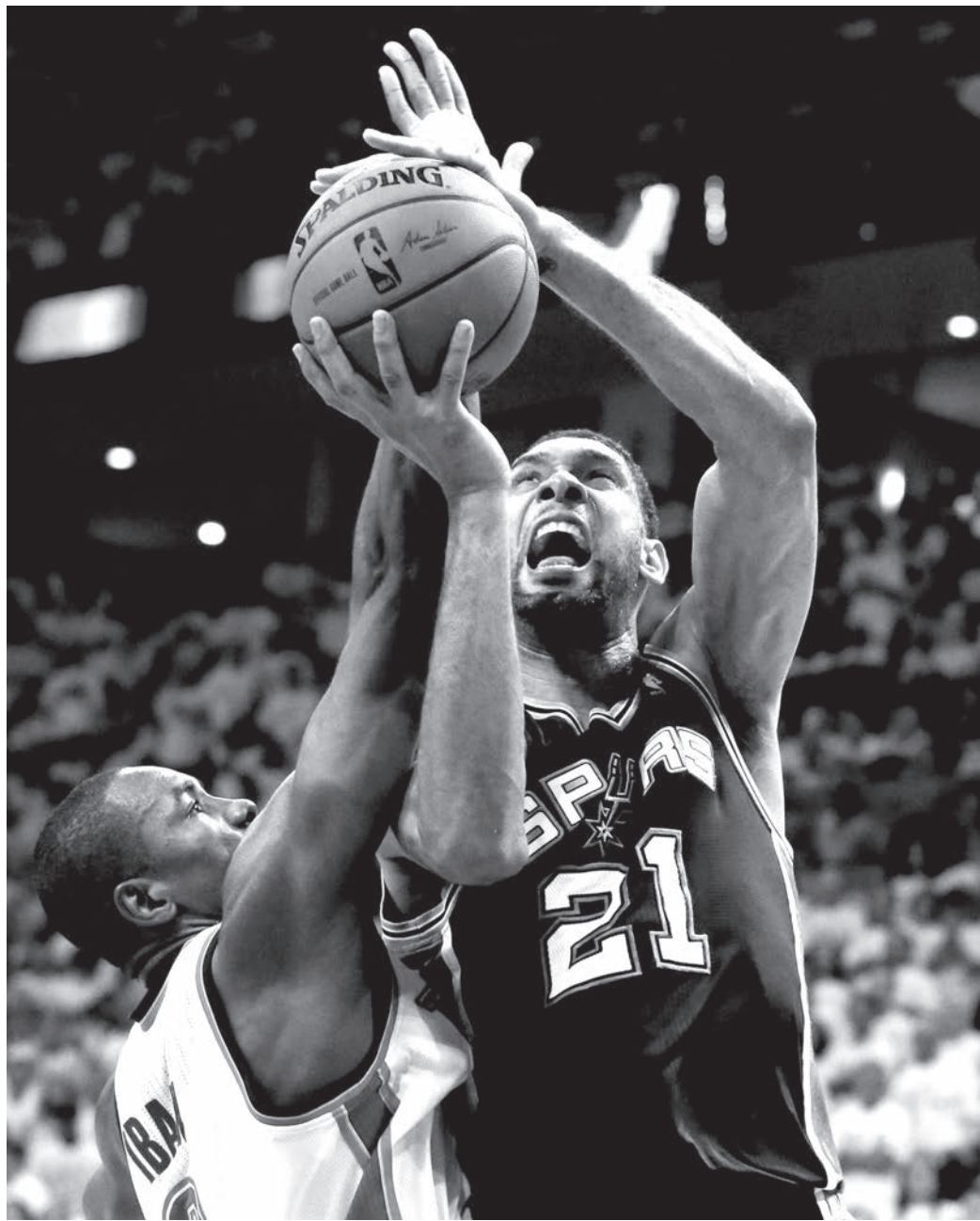
San Antonio will host Game 1 on Thursday night and will try to avenge last year's heartbreaking loss. San Antonio led Miami 3-2 before losing Game 6 in overtime, then dropping Game 7.

"People keep talking like we weren't close to winning, but we were ready to win last year," Spurs center Tim Duncan said. "We're happy it's the Heat again. We've got that bad taste in our mouths still."

A trio of 30-somethings led the way for the Spurs. Duncan had 19 points and 15 rebounds, Boris Diaw scored 26 points and Manu Ginobili chipped in 15 points and six rebounds for the Spurs.

San Antonio pulled this one out despite All-Star point guard Tony Parker missing the entire second half and overtime with left ankle soreness. Popovich said Parker had been struggling with the ankle since Game 4 of the series. The Spurs overcame it the way they have for more than a decade—with teamwork, passing and great performances by role players.

"We didn't know how much Tony was hurt in his ankle,"



San Antonio Spurs forward Tim Duncan (21) shoots against Oklahoma City Thunder forward Serge Ibaka in overtime of Game 6 of the Western Conference finals NBA basketball playoff series in Oklahoma City, Saturday, May 31, 2014.

Heat set the tone for NBA Finals in training camp

MIAMI (AP)—Erik Spoelstra said he mentioned how daunting the task would be only once.

Back in September, when the Miami Heat assembled to begin training camp, Spoelstra addressed his team about furthering its championship legacy and how rare it is for a team to find its way to the NBA Finals in four consecutive seasons.

"We've never brought it up since then," Spoelstra said.

It'll get brought up now. The seed the Heat coach planted in the Bahamas at that training camp took root. The Heat are finals-bound—for the fourth straight time.

The sputtering stretches of play in March and April, surrendering the top seed in the Eastern Conference playoffs to Indiana, winning 12 fewer games in this regular season than a year ago, they all seem moot and meaningless now. The Heat have a chance at a third consecutive NBA title, with the finals starting Thursday night against San Antonio in a title-series rematch.

"It's amazing to make it to one finals," Heat forward Shane Battier said. "To do it four times in a row for some of these guys, it's a tremendous, tremendous accomplishment and it speaks volumes to the dedication, luck, and persever-

ance that you need to do it."

Spoelstra spoke of that luck factor when he gathered his team for a locker-room huddle moments after the celebration started Friday night, after Miami wrapped up its fourth straight East crown with a 117-92 win over Indiana to win the series in six games. His words were interrupted twice by LeBron James, which nobody minded.

"We don't take this for granted," Spoelstra said.

"No, sir," James added, nodding.

"We do not take it for granted," Spoelstra repeated.

"No way," James interjected.

"How tough it actually is and how many things have to go our way," Spoelstra continued. "Four times, you guys who haven't been here with us the whole time, you guys inherit everything that we've experienced."

Only six current Heat players appeared in the 2011 postseason, Miami's first of the "Big 3" era and the last in which it actually lost a series. James, Dwyane Wade, Chris Bosh, Mario Chalmers, James Jones and Udonis Haslem are the last holdovers.

Battier and Norris Cole arrived after the 2011 finals loss. Ray Allen, Chris Andersen and Rashard Lewis—all playing

huge roles these days for Miami—came after the first title run of this Heat era in 2012. The core of last season's title squad, with the exception of amnestied Mike Miller, was back to try it again this time around.

Even with all that talent, with that championship experience, Spoelstra knew a tone had to be immediately set when the season began.

"What I was really encouraged about was our attendance and commitment in training camp in the Bahamas," Spoelstra said. "Right from there, and we communicated during the summer that, if we're real about this, about how difficult that journey is, that you cannot shortcut, that we would show it immediately in training camp."

They're still showing it now. Miami is 12-3 in these playoffs, 8-0 at home, and has won a road game in 15 straight post-season series. The Heat will need to extend that streak to win the NBA Finals; the Spurs will hold home-court advantage.

"Obviously, going through the weeks and weeks and weeks and grinding months of a regular season, it was a toll on all of us," James said. "But I felt like down the stretch, if we could get healthy, we could get everyone in uniform and have our full strength, it didn't matter what

seed we were. I felt like we can represent the Eastern Conference again in the finals if we had the health, and we were able to accomplish that."

At times, like Friday night, they make winning look easy.

Collectively, they insist it's much harder than it appears.

"You still have to go out and do it every single night," Allen said. "It's the toughest thing I've ever done and I guarantee the guys in this locker room would say the same thing."

Only the Lakers and Celtics have appeared in four straight finals, with Boston (1984-87) the last to do so. Wade was 5 when that run ended, James was 2, and Cole, Michael Beasley and Greg Oden hadn't even been born.

Now the Heat are in that club. And regarding what Spoelstra said in that first-day conversation, the point of his words then has become perfectly clear to his team now.

"Having a chance to win is always a special thing," Bosh said. "We always talk about not taking it for granted from Day One. We know it's a very long season. It has its rewards in the end if we stick together and do what we're supposed to do. But it hasn't really hit us yet. I would rather it hit me in two weeks."

Diaw said. "But we didn't want to go to Game 7, and we didn't know if he would be ready to play if we did or if he would be 100 percent, so we tried to get it over with tonight."

It was the third-best playoff scoring effort of Diaw's 11-year career and his best since 2006.

"Boris was amazing," Duncan said. "He had an unbelievable game. He's had a great series."

Russell Westbrook had 34 points, eight assists, seven rebounds and six steals, and MVP Kevin Durant added 31 points and 14 rebounds for the Thunder. But Oklahoma City committed 20 turnovers that led to 33 points for the Spurs. Westbrook and Durant each had seven turnovers.

"We started settling for too many jump shots," Thunder coach Scott Brooks said. "It just seemed like we couldn't get enough good looks at the basket. Defensively, they just had us scrambling around."

San Antonio also handled Serge Ibaka's return from injury. Oklahoma City's defensive star missed the first two games with a strained left calf, but he returned to help the Thunder win the next two games and tie the series.

The series featured five blowouts wins by the home teams, but the closeout game was a gem. Oklahoma City overcame a 12-point deficit in the fourth quarter to force overtime.

"I have to be honest, this vic-

tory is really sweet because we know we played one hell of a team, and we take great satisfaction in that since they're so special," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said.

In overtime, Duncan's shot from the baseline rattled in to give the Spurs a 110-107 lead with 19 seconds to go.

Durant missed a good look at a 3-pointer, and the Spurs rebounded and went to the line. Diaw missed the first and made the second free throw to make it a four-point lead for the Spurs. Westbrook missed a wild 3-pointer, and Spurs wrapped it up.

San Antonio led by 12 early in the fourth quarter, but the Thunder chipped away at the free throw line after getting the Spurs into foul trouble. Back-to-back baskets by Westbrook and Durant cut San Antonio's lead to 93-91 with 4:01 to play, leading to the frantic final minutes.

Westbrook was fouled on a drive with 9.3 seconds to play. He made both free throws to tie the score at 101. Ginobili's fadeaway at the free-throw line against Westbrook missed, and the game went to overtime.

Ginobili said the Thunder were a significant hurdle, and he expects them to be a roadblock in the future.

"They are a pretty good team," he said. "They have so much talent, so much athleticism, so much future. They are a tough team."

Rematch time: Spurs vs Heat in NBA Finals

MIAMI (AP)—A year ago, the Spurs-Heat matchup in the NBA Finals was considered a classic.

And now, an encore awaits.

For the first time since 1998, the NBA Finals is a rematch. San Antonio and Miami will decide the league's champion for the second straight season, the Spurs earning their spot Saturday night by beating Oklahoma City 112-107 in overtime in Game 6 of the Western Conference finals.

Miami—the NBA's two-time defending champion—eliminated Indiana from the East finals Friday night, also in six games.

"The two best teams will meet," Heat guard Dwyane Wade said. "We're just happy and excited that we're one of the best."

The Spurs and Heat split two meetings this season, both winning by comfortable margins at home. Game 1 of this year's Finals is Thursday night in San Antonio.

"It's unbelievable to regain that focus after that devastating loss that we had last year," San Antonio's Tim Duncan said. "But we're back here. We're excited about it. We've got four more to win. We'll do it this time."

It's the sixth trip to the Finals for San Antonio, which won titles in 1999, 2003, 2005 and 2007 before falling to the Heat last season in a series that had some unbelievable drama. The Spurs held a 3-2 series lead

and were leading by five points with 28.2 seconds left in Game 6 at Miami, before Ray Allen's 3-pointer capped a wild rally and forced overtime, where the Heat ultimately prevailed.

Miami then won Game 7, 95-88.

The Heat are heading to the Finals for the fourth straight season and fifth time overall, beating Dallas in 2006, losing to the Mavericks in 2011, then topping Oklahoma City in 2012 and the Spurs last season. The Spurs—who had the league's best regular-season record, 62-20—are now the eighth franchise in league history with at least six trips to the championship round, and would be just the fourth franchise with as many as five NBA titles.

"We know we're facing a very talented and tough team and it's going to be rough," the Spurs' Manu Ginobili said. "But of course, we believe in our means and we're going to do our best, as always."

Both teams have a multi-time Finals MVP. Duncan has won it three times for the Spurs; LeBron James has won it twice for the Heat, and will look to join only Michael Jordan and Shaquille O'Neal on the list of players to receive that award in three consecutive seasons.

The last Finals rematch came in 1998 when Chicago beat Utah for the last of Jordan's six championships.

Tanaka wins again, McCann sends Yankees past Twins



NEW YORK (AP)—Masahiro Tanaka shut down Joe

Mauer and the other Minnesota hitters while lowering his AL-leading ERA to 2.06, and Brian McCann lined a go-ahead double in the eighth inning Saturday that sent the New York Yankees over the Twins 3-1.

Tanaka (8-1) permitted only an unearned run in eight innings. The heralded rookie from Japan gave up four singles, just two leaving the infield.

Tanaka walked two and bounced two wild pitches. But he was especially sharp against Mauer, the three-time AL batting champion.

Orioles 4, Astros 1

In Houston, Nelson Cruz hit his major league-leading 20th home run and drove in three runs to back a solid start by Chris Tillman, as the Orioles snapped a four-game skid with a win over the Astros.

The loss ends a season-best seven-game winning streak for the Astros.

Tillman (5-2) allowed one run on four hits over 6 2-3 innings to bounce back after allowing 14 runs combined in his last two starts. Zach Britton pitched a scoreless ninth for his fourth save.

Blue Jays 12, Royals 2

In Toronto, Juan Francisco had three hits and four RBIs and Marcus Stroman won his first career start as the Blue Jays used a seven-run first inning to rout the Royals.

Adam Lind went 3 for 5 with three RBIs as the AL East-leading Blue Jays snapped a two-game losing streak and finished May with a record of 21-9. Toronto has won 15 of its past 19.

Stroman (2-0) allowed one run and five hits in six innings. The right-hander walked none and struck out six.

Mariners 3, Tigers 2

In Seattle, Willie Bloomquist delivered a pair of two-out RBI singles to help lift the Mariners to a victory over the Tigers.

Chris Young allowed two runs and three hits over six innings to improve to 5-2 on the year. After allowing the first two runners to reach base in the ninth inning, Fernando Rondey picked up his 14th save of the season.

The Mariners took advantage of Detroit starter Drew Smyly's command problems.

Athletics 11, Angels 3

In Oakland, California, Yoenis Cespedes finished a single short of the cycle and threw out two runners at the plate, powering the Athletics past the Angels.

Cespedes doubled in the fourth, hit a two-run triple in the seventh and a three-run homer in the eighth. He matched a career-high with five RBIs to help Oakland stretch its lead to 3½

games over the Angels in the AL West.

INTERLEAGUE

Indians 7, Rockies 6

In Cleveland, Mike Aviles hit a three-run homer in the second and added the go-ahead single in the eighth inning to help the Indians beat the Rockies.

Pinch-hitter Jason Kipnis started the rally with a lead-off walk off Rex Brothers (2-3). After Lonnie Chisenhall's sacrifice, Aviles lined a hit to right field and Kipnis slid home ahead of Charlie Blackmon's throw. Chisenhall had a two-run homer in the sixth.

Padres 4, White Sox 2

In Chicago, Will Venable had a season-high four hits and drove in two runs to help the Padres beat the White Sox.

Tyson Ross (6-4) limited the White Sox to two runs—one earned—on five hits in six innings, and Huston Street remained perfect in 17 save chances this season.

San Diego improved to 20-4 this season when scoring four or more runs.

Red Sox 7, Rays 1

In Boston, Rubby De La Rosa pitched seven shutout innings in his first big league start in nearly three years and Brock Holt hit his first career homer as the Red Sox won their sixth straight game with a victory over the Rays.

The teams kept it clean a day after having their second benches-clearing scrum in less than a week.

Mets 5, Phillies 4

In Philadelphia, David Wright had an RBI single with two outs in the 14th inning to lead the New York Mets to a victory over the Philadelphia Phillies in the second straight marathon game between the teams.

New York needed 5 hours, 32 minutes to win this one after losing to the Phillies 6-5 in a 14-inning game Friday night that took 5:23 to complete.

The Phillies and Mets have played 37 innings in three games with two more still to play in the rare five-game series.

Braves 9, Marlins 5

In Miami, Jason Heyward and Freddie Freeman each drove in a pair of runs to help lead the Braves to a win over the Marlins.

Ervin Santana (5-2) won for the first time since May 10 against the Cubs as he allowed three runs and seven hits in six innings. He struck out four.

Craig Kimbrel got the last two outs for his 15th save of the season, which tied him with John Smoltz for the most saves in franchise history with 154.

Cubs 8, Brewers 0

In Milwaukee, Anthony Rizzo hit two two-run homers and Jason Hammel tossed seven



Minnesota Twins shortstop Eduardo Escobar (5) throws out New York Yankees' Brendan Ryan at first base after forcing out Kelly Johnson (33) for a double play during the second inning of a baseball game Saturday, May 31, 2014, in New York.

strong innings, lifting the Cubs over the Brewers.

Both of Rizzo's homers came on full-count pitches and went deep to right, the second one into the second deck to give the Cubs a four-run lead in the sixth.

It was more than enough support for Hammel (6-3), who frustrated the Brewers by mixing a fastball in the low 90s with a tough slider. He allowed just four hits while striking out a season-high eight to help Chicago snap a three-game losing streak.

Cardinals 2, Giants 0

In St. Louis, Michael Wacha worked six innings of three-hit

ball in his fifth rain-delayed start of the season and Oscar Taveras homered in his second career at-bat for the Cardinals in a victory over the Giants.

Yusmeiro Petit (3-3) gave up two hits in six innings for the Giants, but one of them was Taveras' 418-foot drive in the fifth. Petit subbed for injured Matt Cain, placed on the 15-day disabled list with a hamstring injury, for the second straight start.

Dodgers 12, Pirates 2

In Los Angeles, Hanley Ramirez homered twice, drove in five runs and scored four times, tying career highs in all three categories to lead the Dodgers to a

rout of the Pirates.

Hyun-Jin Ryu (6-2) breezed to his third straight victory, allowing two runs and 10 hits with four strikeouts and no walks.

Reds 5, Diamondbacks 0

In Phoenix, Johnny Cueto pitched effectively into the eighth inning as the Reds gave him some rare run support in a win over the Diamondbacks.

The Diamondbacks lost centerfielder A.J. Pollock to a broken right hand after he was hit swinging at a pitch by Cueto in the eighth inning.

The Reds have had trouble hitting with Cueto (5-4) on the mound this season, but fol-

lowed Friday's big offensive night by scoring all five runs off Diamondbacks starter Brandon McCarthy (1-7).

Nationals 10, Rangers 2

In Washington, Anthony Rendon went 4 for 5 and hit one of four Washington home runs, and Doug Fister allowed four hits in six innings as the Nationals routed the Rangers.

Adam LaRoche, Jose Lobaton, and pinch-hitter Scott Hairston also homered in Washington's offensive surge.

The Nationals have racked up 24 runs and 42 hits in their last three games, winning two straight to climb back to .500.

Watson takes a 1-shot lead at Memorial

DUBLIN, Ohio (AP)—Bubba Watson has been coming to Muirfield Village ever since his rookie year on the PGA Tour. Nine years later, he might have finally figured it out.

He had only five rounds in the 60s in his previous eight trips. Even with a bogey on his final hole Saturday, he had a 3-under 69 for his third straight round in the 60s this week. Watson is 11 under on the par 5s, the key to scoring.

Best of all, he walked off the course with a one-shot lead over Scott Langley in the Memorial. Not bad for a guy who has never finished better than a tie for 23rd.

"It's all about maturity," Watson said. "Thinking around the golf course a lot better—it's my ninth year on tour, so better thinking on the golf course is creating better shots. Hitting a lot more greens. Hitting

a lot more fairways. Putting a little better this year. When you add all that up, it turns into better scores.

Watson was at 12-under 204 and in position for his third win of the year.

"I have a shot," Watson said. "I'd like the same score tomorrow and let the boys beat me if they can beat me."

Plenty of them should have a chance. With a bogey on the final hole, Watson's lead shrunk to one shot over Langley, who had a 67 to make it an all-southpaw final pairing Sunday. Langley has not been in the final group since his rookie debut two years ago in Honolulu.

The most famous Lefty, Phil Mickelson, had a 72 and was 10 shots out of the lead while coping with reports he is involved in a federal investigation of insider

trading. Mickelson confirmed that FBI agents approached him after the first round this week. Otherwise, he went about his business on the golf course.

"It's not going to change the way I carry myself," Mickelson said. "Honestly, I've done nothing wrong. I'm not going to walk around any other way."

Hideki Matsuyama of Japan made birdie on his last hole for a 69 and was two shots behind. Adam Scott, the No. 1 player in the world and coming off a win at the Colonial last week, made eagle on the 15th that sparked another surge up the leaderboard. With a bogey on the last hole, he had a 68 and still was only three shots behind.

"It's going to be tough," Scott said about his three-shot deficit to the Masters champion. "He's playing great this year, and I just

have to post a number. I'm in a good position where I can possibly post a number, and that makes life a little harder for the leader."

The 36-hole leader had a tough enough time. Paul Casey, who started Saturday with a three-shot lead. That was gone in three holes when Watson made a pair of birdie, and Casey missed more than his share of putts that keep rounds together. He ended with a double bogey for a 76. He still was in range, however, part of a large group at 8-under 208 that included Jordan Spieth (67), Charl Schwartzel (67) and Byron Nelson winner Brendon Todd (69).

Watson already has won at Riviera and Augusta National this year. He has tried to make it a point of keeping golf fun—Bubba Golf, he likes to call it—instead of getting wrapped up in expectations.



Gwap Gang still undefeated in DLX/IT&E caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Gwap Gang kept its flawless mark in the 2014 DLX/IT&E Invitational Basketball League after a 79-65 victory over JP World last Friday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

The win was fourth in as many games for Gwap Gang, which still leads Group B of the 12-team league, while JP World dropped to an even 2-2 record.

Gwap Gang led from start

to finish and never gave JP World a chance to grab the upper hand, as the latter played without some key players in the first half. Juan Camacho and Manolo Manalo were playing on the other league and missed the first half of their duel against Gwap Gang, while 3-point shooter Marlon Sison did not play in the entire match.

Facing a depleted crew,



Gwap Gang nearly took a double-digit lead at the break, 37-28, and though JP World made a little headway in the third, 49-55, the former went all out in the fourth for the 14-point winning margin.

Lester Vertudez delivered the killer blows for Gwap Gang, as he scored 11 markers in the fourth quarter, including the team's first nine points in that canto.

In the first game, Jerome Nori-

ta waxed hot from downtown to lift Saipan Ice to a 72-69 win over San Roque.

Norita collected 24 points, 15 of them came from the 3-point area to give Saipan Ice its third win in four games. Norita drilled Saipan Ice's last 5 points, including his fifth triple of the night to help his team thwart San Roque's rally.

Norita's four other triples came in the first half. He had one in the first period and then dropped the three straight treys to start the second quar-

ter, allowing Saipan Ice to run a 16-20 deficit to a 36-33 half-time lead.

Saipan Ice kept the driver's seat in the second half, as Norita drew enough support from his teammates.

First Game

Saipan Ice 72 – Norita 24, Chen 12, Pena 11, Sablan 8, Palacios 4, Rangamar 6, Kaipat 4, Saralu 2.

San Roque 69 – De Guzman 20, Fernando 10, Mendoza 10, Guiang 10, Mina 5, Dayrit 5,

Odicta 4, Barrios 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-20, 39-33, 56-50, 72-69.

Second Game

Gwap Gang 79 – Vertudez 16, Ito 10, Darag 10, Ano 9, Rabauliman 8, Yap 6, Deleon Guerrero 6, Rabasto 5, Dela Rosa 5, Kwon 4.

JP World 65 – D. Camacho 18, Manalo 14, De Leon 11, Jose 9, Schrader 7, J. Camacho 4, Sacramento 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-16, 37-28, 55-49, 79-65.

Nadal's bad back offers off-court drama at French

PARIS (AP)—The closest thing to intrigue or drama involving Rafael Nadal on Saturday came after his 31st consecutive French Open victory concluded.

That's when the eight-time champion revealed that a painful back is slowing his serves—and, all in all, giving him more trouble than his opponents so far.

For now, leave the on-court theatrics to others. Wimbledon champion Andy Murray, for example, was clutching at aching hamstrings while being taken to 7-all in the fifth set by No. 28 Philipp Kohlschreiber before their third-round match was suspended for fading light. No. 23 Gael Monfils acknowledged tanking a set en route to a 5-7, 6-2, 6-4, 0-6, 6-2 victory over No. 14 Fabio Fognini, who was docked a point for chucking his racket near a ball boy.

"They make a good show for the crowd," Nadal said. "Long match. Crowd involved. Good



for tennis." Well, aside from the fact that Monfils and Fognini combined for more than twice as many unforced errors, 137, as winners, 66.

Nadal's play was much, much cleaner: During the entire course of his 6-2, 7-5, 6-2 win against 65th-ranked Leonardo Mayer of Argentina, the No. 1-seeded Spaniard made 10 unforced errors—two in the first set, three in the second, five in the third.

He's dropped a total of 19 games through three matches.

More worrisome would be his back, which also acted up in January during a loss to Stan Wawrinka in the Australian Open final. "During my career, I had (a) few problems. ... Hopefully will not be (the) case" the rest of the way in Paris, Nadal said.

Against Mayer, Nadal averaged only 102 mph (165 kph) on first serves, with a top speed of 114 mph (184 kph).

That was down from an average of 111 mph (179 kph) and top of 122 mph (197 kph) in the first round last Monday.

Through two matches, Nadal faced five break points and lost serve twice. He dealt with eight break points Saturday, losing two.

The last time Nadal won 31 matches in a row in Paris, he failed to get No. 32, losing in the fourth round in 2009 to Robin Soderling—a defeat that later was blamed, in part, on injured knees. That remains the Spaniard's lone setback in 63 matches at the tournament.

Next for Nadal is 83rd-ranked Dusan Lajovic of Serbia, who beat Jack Sock of the United States 6-4, 7-5, 6-3. Another American, Donald Young, lost in five sets to Guillermo Garcia-Lopez of Spain, leaving No. 10 John Isner as the last U.S. man.

Before this French Open, Lajovic had a 10-21 career record in tour-level matches, never winning two in a row.

MHS

From Page 28

Lady Dolphins won after outlasting the Lady Rays in Game 1, 17-16. Southern and MHS collided anew in the finale after the former defeated the latter in the winner's bracket semifinals, 9-8. The Lady Dolphins had to beat Kagman in the losers bracket, 11-7, to have a chance to defend their 2013 title against Southern, which had a twice-to-beat advantage in the finals.

The Lady Rays needed the edge, as their pitchers struggled in the championship round, giving the Lady Dolphins several free runs in the early innings en route to the easy win via 10-run mercy rule after only four and a half innings.

Annalisa Blas started off for Southern and though she did not allow a single hit in the first inning, fatigue began to take its toll on her in the second inning where she threw several wild pitches and high balls. With Blas having problems on the mound, MHS scored five runs off two wild pitches, a passed ball, and an error at third base. The Lady Dolphins got one earned run off Blas with Julie Reyes making an RBI single.

The Southern coaches had seen enough as they faced a 0-5 deficit and dispatched Cathy Amandus to relieve Blas. However, Amandus took time before getting her form, allowing MHS to rack up three more runs off two wild pitches and a walk. The Lady Dolphins could have scored more than eight runs, as they loaded the bases with two outs before Amandus struck out Melisha Lizama to end Southern's agony in the pivotal second inning.

While Southern's pitchers had a tough time in Game 1, the Lady Dolphins' Jayna Lizama played steady on the mound, throwing a three-hitter and giving up no earned runs. Southern recorded its first run at the bottom of the third off an MHS error at third base and added one more from another Lady Dolphins miscue to move within six, 2-8.

The defending champions got back the two runs quickly at the top of the fourth off a passed ball and RBI walk and with Blas returning to the mound and still showing fatigue, MHS collected three more runs to set up the early win. The Lady Dolphins had another run off Blas' passed ball and two from Southern's error at first base and shortstop.

Down by 11 runs after four innings, Southern must score at least two runs at the top of the fifth to prevent MHS from cruising to victory. The Lady Rays had chances, as they loaded the bases with two outs, however MHS catcher Julie Reyes caught a foul ball from Jinky Kintaro to end the match and keep the Lady Dolphins' title defense hopes alive.

Game 2 will be played today at 4pm after coaches agreed to give their players enough time to rest, as Game 1 was completed around 5pm last Saturday. Southern and MHS have started competing in the playoffs last Thursday and games were scheduled for the whole day last Saturday.

The Lady Dolphins advanced to the winner's bracket semis after beating Mount Carmel School, while Southern prevailed over MHS' junior varsity team. Kagman High School, which lost to MHS JV, remained in contention after a win via forfeiture over MCS, which missed the Saturday games because of its graduation ceremony. Kagman then had a rematch against MHS JV and the former won for the right to face MHS varsity in the last semis pairing.

BACK

From Page 28

next two left stranded at first and second after Yaguel was called for a 6-3 putout play.

The Falcons were still without a single run in the second inning, while Antonio Norita drew first blood for the Braves at the top of the second, reaching home off an error from Serrano to put his team in front. However, the Braves' hold on the driver's seat did not last long, as the Falcons' batters got into their rhythm in next three innings to foil the former's upset bid.

Catcher Angel Iguel ended the Falcons' drought, as his triple brought leadoff batter Evangelista home. First baseman Justin Cangco then broke the tie and put the Falcons on top with his RBI single that drove Iguel home.

Ahead by only one after three complete innings, the Falcons gained more cushion in the fourth inning, thanks to Evan-

gelista. The Falcons shortstop, who flied out in his first at-bat before getting a single in the third inning, this time blasted a two-run triple in the fourth and also reached home off a stolen base for their 5-1 advantage. The lead went up to five, 6-1, as Iguel bagged his second run off an error at third base.

The Braves were stuck to one run, as they had two runners stranded in second and third at the top of the third. Sablan reached third and Tudela was at second with two outs when fifth batter Vicente Camacho was caught with a 5-3 putout play. In the fourth inning, the Braves had a 1-2-3 with Yaguel striking out leadoff batter Antonio Norita, Mike Norita flying out at center, and Josenio Alvarez going out on a 6-3 putout play.

The Braves then broke their silence in the fifth inning with Sablan's double bringing Isaiah Teigita home. However, Sablan was stranded at second, as

Yaguel struck out Tudela for the third out. The Falcons got the quick two outs in the fifth with Yaguel striking out V.J. Igitol and then picked up a grounder from Anthony Dizon before throwing to Cangco at first base for the second out.

At the bottom of the fifth, the Falcons added three more runs off Iguel's RBI single, a fielder's choice, and an error to pressure the Braves to score at least seven runs to continue the game. The extension did not happen, as the Falcons' defense stood out anew at the top of the sixth. Third baseman Reyes caught a fly ball from Camacho for the first out. Yaguel, who allowed a single to second batter Antonio Norita, then got the second out when he picked up a grounder from Mark Norita and threw to Cangco at first base. Alvarez was next at bat and made contact with the ball, which headed toward first base and Cangco was there to catch the fly ball and seal the Falcons' title win.

TOKA

From Page 28

Dan Barcinas off a Toka timeout and with the 24-second shot clock ticking gave the team more distance and coach Elias Rangamar's wards sealed the championship with a 7-0 run in the next one minute. After Barcinas' trey and Larry Sharry countered with a layup, Marvin Rabauliman escaped with a fastbreak basket, while Preston Basa hit a triple and a floater for a 97-84 advantage, 1:23 left in the match. JP World tried to get quick baskets and succeeded, but did not have enough time to overhaul Toka's double-digit lead.

JP World played catch up since the second quarter after losing a 7-point cushion in the first period. Pelisamen, who registered only 11 points in Game 1, showed up early in Game 2, knocking in 9 early points to lift JP World to a 12-5 advantage.

Toka then recovered at the halfway mark of the first canto with Lampkin scoring 4 of the team's final 5 points in that period which ended in a deadlock, 22-all. Toka kept its momentum in the second quarter, leaning on Jack Lizama's short

jumper to lead by as much as 12, 47-35. Toka was just ahead by 2, 33-31, when Lizama uncorked a 14-4 spurt, nailing three straight jumpers and scoring 10 points in a three-minute stretch. An 8-2 finish in the last two minutes of the second frame off Pelisamen and Gyles Ruloked's two baskets each kept JP World in the game, 43-49.

Toka's advantage returned to twin digits in the third period, 60-49, as it spread the wealth anew and worked out on its motion offense. However, JP World came knocking on Toka's door again with Estolas scoring 7 of the team's last 10 points in the third to bring the deficit down to 3, 68-71. JP World continued to chase Toka in the fourth quarter, but the latter played steady basketball in the closing minutes to wrap up the short series and complete the sweep.

Toka 100 – Lampkin 19, Lizama 16, Basa 16, Tudela 13, Barcinas 13, Rabauliman 10, Caro 4, Joyner 4.

JP World 90 – Pelisamen 39, J. Estolas 18, Ruloked 10, Paredo 9, De Guzman 4, Manalo 3, Sharry 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-22, 49-43, 71-68, 100-90.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
MLB STANDINGS				
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	33	24	.579	—
New York	29	25	.537	2½
Baltimore	27	27	.500	4½
Boston	26	29	.473	6
Tampa Bay	23	33	.411	9½
Central Division				
Detroit	31	21	.596	—
Chicago	28	29	.491	5½
Kansas City	26	29	.473	6½
Minnesota	25	28	.472	6½
Cleveland	26	30	.464	7
West Division				
Oakland	34	22	.607	—
Los Angeles	30	25	.545	3½
Texas	28	28	.500	6
Seattle	27	28	.491	6½
Houston	24	33	.421	10½
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
Atlanta	30	25	.545	—
Miami	28	27	.509	2
Washington	27	27	.500	2½
New York	26	29	.473	4
Philadelphia	24	29	.453	5
Central Division				
Milwaukee	33	23	.589	—
St. Louis	30	26	.536	3
Cincinnati	25	29	.463	7
Pittsburgh	25	30	.455	7½
Chicago	20	33	.377	11½
West Division				
San Francisco	36	20	.643	—
Los Angeles	30	27	.526	6½
Colorado	28	27	.509	7½
San Diego	26	30	.464	10
Arizona	23	35	.397	14
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				

The Week in Sports

Saipan sweep of district meet tops list



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The CNMI U14 Girls National Team players receive their jersey during the send-off ceremony last week at the Kanoa Resort from Northern Mariana Island Football Association officials led by president Jerry Tan, right.

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Saipan's domination of the 2014 CNMI District Tournament was the highlight in last week's competition in the Commonwealth.

The Saipan Major All-Stars swept the Tinian Major All-Stars in a three-game series at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield to earn the right to represent the CNMI to the 2014 Asia Pacific Regional Tournament that will be held in the Philippines next month. The Saipan Senior All-Stars duplicated the feat when they also shut down the visitors in three games at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield to gain entry, too in the regional competition.

Meanwhile, other notable events last week were the send-off for the CNMI U14 Girls Na-

tional Team, the playoff round in the QQ caging, and the awarding ceremony for the CNMI May Masters Tournament.

The CNMI U14 Girls National Team received good luck messages for their participation in the AFC U14 Girls Regional Championships in Beijing, China. In the AFC event, they played against Hong Kong, South Korea, and Chinese-Taipei.

In the QQ caging, Toka won the championship after a two-game sweep of JP World. Toka prevailed in Game 1, 107-92, last Wednesday, and secured the title with a 100-90 victory in Game 2 last Friday. Island Manpower joined Toka and JP World in the Top 3 after downing dethroned champion Blue Haus in the consolation match, 77-74.

In the 32nd CNMI May Masters Tournament, Alex Castro and Lori Terre took the top honors af-

ter ruling the men's and women's divisions of the annual tournament. The organizing Saipan Bowling Association also recognized winners in the doubles, team, singles, and all events.

In other events, two basketball leagues continued their regular season games last week. At the Garapan Basketball Court for the DLX/IT&E caging, Ali'i and Gwap Gang remained undefeated, while San Antonio is still unbeaten in the DL Corp. league being played at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex.

In badminton, the playoff cast in the men's and women's singles and mixed doubles of the IT&E tournament was completed last week.

In football, the M-League and NMIFA women's league played their regular season matches at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

San Antonio's Mike Espinosa drives against two Puerto Rico defenders during their game in the DL Corp. caging last week at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Toka's Jason Lampkin escapes with a fastbreak layup against JP World's Juan Camacho, left, and Jorge De Guzman during the fourth quarter of Game 2 of their title series in the QQ caging last Friday at the Garapan Basketball Court.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Saipan Senior All-Stars' Darion Jones pitches to a Tinian All-Star batter during the top of the fifth inning of their game in the 2014 CNMI District Tournament last week at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Senior All-Stars players meet near the mound after beating the Tinian Senior All-Stars in Game 3 of the 2014 CNMI District Tournament last week at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Chris Hilario receives a shot at the backline during his and Windy Fernandez's doubles game against Loyda Ito and Joel Ortega in the IT&E badminton tournament last week at the TSL Sports Complex.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Bowling Association secretary Ross Zapanta addresses participants in the 32nd May Masters Tournament during the awards ceremony at the Nami Bar of Kanoa Resort.

Spurs beat Thunder
in OT, advance to
NBA Finals

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Tanaka wins again,
McCann sends
Yankees past Twins

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28 MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2014

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Back-to-back for Falcons

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Talaabwogh Falcons prevailed in the battle of Tanapag teams after outclassing the NSA Braves, 9-2, in the championship game in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball yesterday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

The Falcons successfully defended the Major division crown they won over McDonald's in the 2013 season, as they recovered from two scoreless innings and leaned on pitcher Arby Yaguel to down the Braves in the 2014 finale. Joining Yaguel on the champion team are Joel Norita, Aven Evangelista, Angel Iguel, Zach Reyes, Nick Nekai, Keoki Blas, Max Pangelinan, Jonathan Renguul, Keoni Serrano, and Herbs Lieto. Manny Evangelista is the Falcons' manager, while Dodet Feliciano, Joseph Lifofoi, and Jesse Seman are the coaches.



The winner-take-all finale was moved back twice and after more than two weeks of break, both teams showed some

rust in yesterday's championship match. The Braves were done at the top of the first inning after only four batters with the Falcons getting a double play against the former's first two batters and stranding third batter Robin Sablan at second after Yaguel struck out Joe Tudela. The Falcons also failed to score in the first inning with their first two batters going out and the

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MHS keeps title hopes alive

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Defending champion Marianas High School forced a rubber match versus Saipan Southern High School after coasting to a 13-2 win in Game 1 of their title

duel in the 2013-2014 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Girls Fast-pitch Softball League last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

The weekend's championship encounter was a rematch of the last year's finals, which the

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Marianas High School's Jayna Lizama throw a pitch, while a Saipan Southern High School runner gets ready to steal third base during the bottom of the third inning of Game 1 of the finals of the 2013-2014 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Girls Fast-pitch Softball League last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Talaabwogh Falcons players, coaches, and manager pose with their trophies after beating the NSA Braves, 9-2, in the championship game in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball yesterday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Toka sweeps JP World in QQ finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Toka picked up where it left off, winning Game 2 of its best-of-three finals series against JP World, 100-90, to clinch the championship in the 2014 QQ Rent A Car Invitational Basketball League last Friday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Toka took control of the series-clinching Game 2 in the second quarter and withstood JP World's repeated rally attempts in the second half to end the best-of-three finals showdown. The newly crowned champion showed the same poise in its 107-92 victory in Game 1.

Six Toka players finished in twin digits, as the team reached the century mark anew with its spread-out offense. Jason Lampkin, who was a non-factor in Game 1 with his 3 points, top-scored for Toka in Game 2, firing 19 points, including successive baskets in the fourth

quarter that gave his team more cushion after JP World moved within three at the end of the third, 68-71.

After threatening Toka, JP World started the fourth canto with possession and had a chance to slice the deficit to 1, but Jorge De Guzman missed on his drive. Toka collared the rebound and Dan Barcinas made it a 5-point game with his layup. Barcinas' basket started Toka's 10-2 scoring run in the first three minutes of the final canto, while Lampkin earned the last 4 baskets off layups to bring the team's lead back to twin digits, 81-70.

Freddie Pelisamen scored JP World's lone field in the first three minutes of the fourth frame, but his squad refused to give up, going for a 12-6 exchange to bring Toka's lead to 5, 82-87, entering the last three and a half minutes of Game 2.

A crucial corner triple from

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Toka's Dan Barcinas pulls up for a running jumper against JP World's Errol Peredo during the third quarter of the Game 2 of their best-of-three title series in the QQ caging last Friday night at the Garapan Basketball Court. Toka won, 100-90, to sweep JP World.